

#### NOTICE/AGENDA

#### STATE COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING

POSTED AT: www.scdd.ca.gov

This meeting is being held via teleconference within the meaning of Government Code Section 11123.2. Members may be physically present at one or more teleconference locations. There may be members of the public body who are participating in today's meeting that were granted a reasonable accommodation per the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Accessible formats of all agenda and materials can be found online at www.scdd.ca.gov

#### TELECONFERENCE LOCATION

SCDD Headquarters

3831 N. Freeway Blvd #125

Sacramento, CA 95834

JOIN VIA ZOOM:

Meeting ID:

Password:

**DATE:** July 8, 2025

**TIME:** 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM

**COMMITTEE CHAIR:** 

Item 1. CALL TO ORDER

Item 2. ESTABLISH QUORUM

Item 3. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

JOIN BY TELECONFERENCE:

Call-In Number: (877) 853 5257

Kara Ponton

Meeting ID: 893 8128 7251

**MEM-JUL-2025** 

893 8128 7251

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#### Item 4. PUBLIC COMMENTS

This item is for members of the public to provide comments and/or present information to this body on matters not listed on the agenda. There will be up to 20 minutes allocated to hear from the public with each person allotted up to 3 minutes to comment.

Additionally, there will be up to 5 minutes allocated to hear from the public on each Council agenda item, with each person allotted up to 1 minute to comment.

Item 5.	APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY 2025 MINUTES VMTE	Page 3
Item 6.	MEMBERSHIP WORKGROUP REPORT Presented by: Kara Ponton, Committee Chair	Page 7
Item 7.	DEMOGRAPHIC MAP  Presented by: Aaron Carruthers, Executive Director	Page 21
Item 8.	APPOINTMENT AND VACANCIES  Presented by: Aaron Carruthers, Executive Director	Page 20
Item 9.	APPLICATIONS FOR COUNCIL VMTE	Page 27

Presented by: Kara Ponton, Committee Chair

- a. Review applications for expiring first and second-term seats.
  - At Large 2
  - At Large 5
  - North Coast Region
  - North State Region
  - Sacramento Region
  - San Bernardino Region

#### Item 10. ADJOURNMENT

#### **Accessibility:**

Pursuant to Government Code Sections 11123.1 and 11125(f), individuals with disabilities who require accessible alternative formats of the agenda and related meeting materials and/or auxiliary aids/services to participate in this meeting should contact (916) 263-7919. Requests must be received by 5 business days prior to the meeting. *All times indicated and the order of business are approximate and subject to change.* 

#### July 8, 2025

#### **AGENDA ITEM 5.**

#### **ACTION ITEM**

# STATE COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES – Membership Committee

#### Approval of February 2025 Minutes

Members will review and act on the February 2025, meeting minutes.

#### **Action Recommended**

Approve the February 2025, minutes.

#### Attachment(s)

February 25, 2025, Minutes

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#### DRAFT

# Membership Committee Meeting Minutes February 4, 2025

Attending Members	Others Attending	Others Attending (continued)
Harold Ashe (FA) Kara Ponton, Chair (SA) Sonia Jones (SA)	Aaron Carruthers Austin Murphy Beth Hurn David Delgado	Ibrahim Muttaqi Jadolphus Fraser Kenya Martinez Lori Walker
Members Absent Eric Ybarra (SA)	Dena Hernandez	Robin Maitino-Erben Sheraden Nichalou

#### 1. CALL TO ORDER

Committee Chair Kara Ponton (SA) called the meeting to order at 1:06 P.M.

#### 2. ESTABLISH QUORUM

A quorum was established.

#### 3. WELCOME/INTRODUCTIONS

Members and others introduced themselves.

#### 4. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Lori Walker, Chair of the North Los Angeles County Regional Center Self-Determination Advisory Committee, reported a long-standing vacancy on the NLACRC SDAC and noted an urgent need to fill vacancies with candidates that have Self-Determination Program experience. She emphasized the importance of identifying someone who could support advocacy efforts and work closely with her to strengthen the committee's impact.

#### 5. APPROVAL OF AUGUST 2024 MINUTES

It was moved/seconded (Ashe [FA]/Ponton [SA]) and carried to adopt the August 2024 meeting minutes, as presented. (Motion passed unanimously, with one abstention from Sonia Jones. [See Page 1 for the full list of voting members]).

#### 6. MEMBERSHIP WORKGROUP REPORT

Committee Chair Kara Ponton (SA) provided a summary of the August 2024 Membership Workgroup Report, which included an overview of the status of reappointments and vacancies for the Regional Advisory Committees and the Local Self-Determination Advisory Committees.

#### 7. DEMOGRAPHIC MAP

Executive Director Aaron Carruthers reviewed a map showing the current demographic makeup of the Council.

#### 8. APPOINTMENT AND VACANCIES

Executive Director Carruthers presented the current Appointment and Vacancies Tracking Form to the Committee.

#### 9. APPLICATIONS FOR COUNCIL

The Committee reviewed candidates with expiring first terms and recommended that Eric Ybarra and Alex Reyes be reappointed for a second term. The Committee then evaluated applications submitted for the vacant seats representing the Central Coast Region, At-Large, and Non-Governmental Agency categories. The following actions were taken:

It was moved/seconded (Ashe [FA]/Jones [SA]) and carried to move applicants 740, 775, 786, 793, 801, 832, 849, 855, 866, 868, 881, 883, 885, and 898 forward to the interview process. (Motion passed unanimously. [See Page 1 for the full list of voting members]).

It was moved/seconded (Ashe [FA]/Ponton [SA]) and carried to move applicant 685 forward to the interview process. (Motion passed with 2 votes in favor and 1 opposed (Sonia Jones) [See Page 1 for the full list of voting members]).

It was moved/seconded (Jones [SA]/Ponton [SA]) and carried not to move applicant 893 forward to the interview process. (Motion passed with a vote of 2 in favor and 1 opposed (Harold Ashe). [See Page 1 for the full list of voting members]).

The Committee agreed that applications from candidates 855, 866, and 868 will not be considered for the At-Large seat and will instead be reviewed specifically for the Central Coast Region seat.

Executive Director Aaron Carruthers stated he would follow up with the Governor's Office to request recommendations for the Non-Governmental Agency seat.

#### 10. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 3:25 P.M.

July 8, 2025

# AGENDA ITEM 6. INFORMATIONAL ITEM

# STATE COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES – MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

#### Membership Workgroup Report

In November of 2023, the Membership Committee established a workgroup to review, vet and appoint/reappoint the membership of RACs and Local SDACs, allowing vacancies to be filled in a timely manner.

The Membership Workgroup met on April 1, 2025. Committee Chair Kara Ponton will provide a brief update on the outcomes of that meeting.

#### Attachment(s)

April 1, 2025, Membership Workgroup Report

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#### April 1, 2025 Membership Workgroup Report to Committee

#### **Regional Advisory Committee Actions**

#### North Coast Regional Advisory Committee

#### **New Applications**

907	Appoint
919	Appoint

#### **RAC Removals**

607	Removal

#### North State Regional Advisory Committee

#### **New Applications**

916	Hold	

#### Sacramento Regional Advisory Committee

#### **New Applications**

-	
835	Appoint
865	Appoint
873	Waitlist
884	Decline
887	Decline

#### North Bay Regional Advisory Committee

#### **New Applications**

880	Waitlist
909	Waitlist

#### Bay Area Regional Advisory Committee

#### **New Applications**

	• •
854	Decline
867	Hold
875	Hold
877	Appoint
910	Hold
914	Appoint

#### Removals

643	Removal
-----	---------

#### North Valley Hills Regional Advisory Committee

No new appointments, reappointments or removals.

#### Central Coast Regional Advisory Committee

#### **New Applications**

	• •
855	Hold
858	Hold
878	Waitlist
882	Appoint
904	Waitlist
911	Waitlist

#### Reappointments

···	PO111111101110
558	Reappoint
629	Reappoint

#### Sequoia Regional Advisory Committee

#### **New Applications**

863	Appoint
900	Appoint

#### **Appointments From Waitlist**

Appointments i rom traitmet	
785	Appoint
826	Appoint
834	Appoint

#### Los Angeles Regional Advisory Committee

**New Applications** 

850	Decline	
851	Decline	
853	Waitlisted	
859	Decline	
901	Decline	

#### **Appointments From Waitlist**

833	Appoint
879	Appoint

Reappointments

650	Reappoint
658	Reappoint

#### Removals

236	Removal
-----	---------

#### Orange County Regional Advisory Committee

#### **New Applications**

_	
852	Decline
861	Decline
862	Appoint
894	Decline
912	Appoint

Reappointments

671	Reappoint
669	Reappoint

#### San Bernardino Regional Advisory Committee

#### **New Applications**

_	
871	Waitlist
872	Appoint
874	Appoint
881	Waitlist
890	Appoint
913	Decline

#### **Appointments From Waitlist**

|--|

#### Reappointments

609	Reappoint
637	Reappoint
662	Reappoint

#### Removals

230	Removal
295	Removal
324	Removal
473	Removal
700	Removal
782	Removal

#### San Diego Regional Advisory Committee.

No new appointments, reappointments or removals. (Applications on hold. No manager in place).

#### **Self-Determination Advisory Committee Actions**

#### Redwood Coast Regional Center

No new appointments, reappointments or removals.

#### Far Northern Regional Center

#### **New Applications**

419 Appoint

#### Removals

157 Removal

#### Alta California Regional Center

#### **Declinations From Waitlist**

361 Decline

#### North Bay Regional Center

No new appointments, reappointments or removals.

#### Golden Gate Regional Center

#### **New Applications**

	• •
442	Hold
444	Hold

#### Regional Center of the East Bay

#### **New Application**

	ale le construe de la
416	Hold
429	Hold
435	Appoint
443	Hold

#### Valley Mountain Regional Center

No new appointments, reappointments or removals.

#### San Andres Regional Center

No new appointments, reappointments or removals.

#### Tri Counties Regional Center

No new appointments, reappointments or removals.

#### Central Valley Regional Center

No new appointments, reappointments or removals.

#### Kern Regional Center

No new appointments, reappointments or removals.

#### East Los Angeles Regional Center

No new appointments, reappointments or removals.

#### Frank D. Lanterman Regional Center

No new appointments, reappointments or removals.

#### **Harbor Regional Center**

No new appointments, reappointments or removals.

#### North Los Angeles County Regional Center

#### **New Applications**

413	Decline
426	Decline

#### South Central Los Angeles Regional Center

#### **New Applications**

430	Decline
431	Decline
432	Decline
433	Decline

#### San Gabriel Pomona Regional Center

No new appointments, reappointments or removals.

#### Westside Regional Center

No new appointments, reappointments or removals.

#### Regional Center of Orange County

No new appointments, reappointments or removals.

#### **Inland Regional Center**

#### New Applications

420	Waitlist
422	Waitlist
428	Appoint
440	Waitlist

#### San Diego Regional Center

No new appointments, reappointments or removals. (Applications on hold. No manager in place).

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July 8, 2025

# AGENDA ITEM 7. INFORMATIONAL ITEM

# STATE COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES – MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

#### Demographic Map

Executive Director Aaron Carruthers will go over the current Council make-up.

#### Attachment(s)

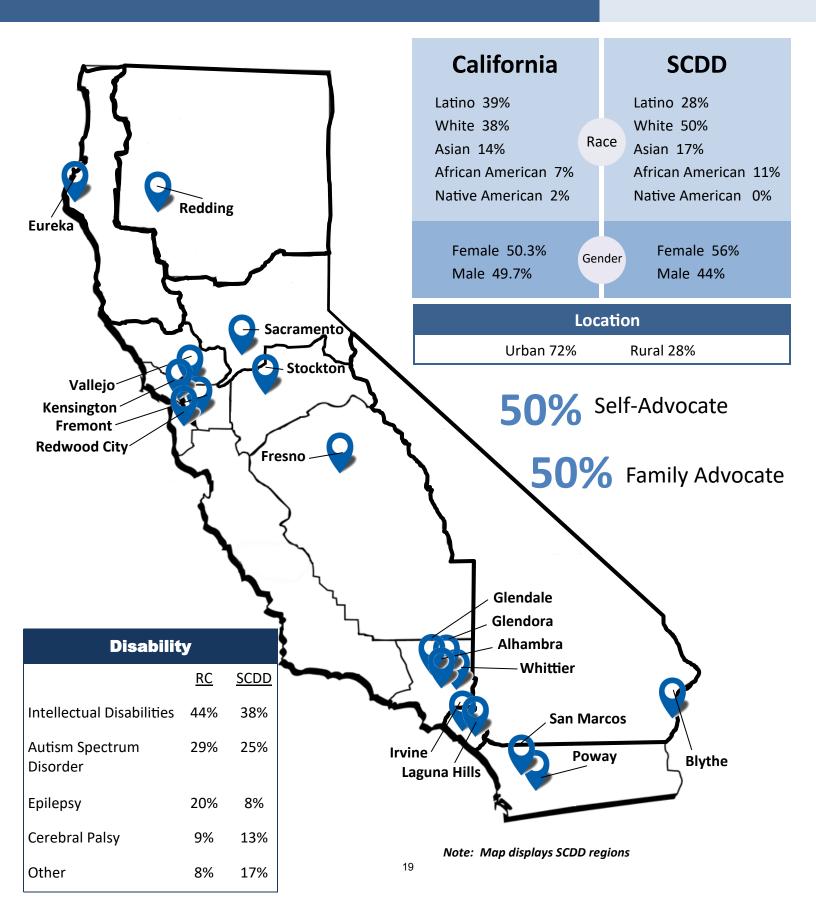
Current Demographic Map as of May 2025

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### **Who Are Our Council Members**

Non Agency May 2025





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July 8, 2025

# AGENDA ITEM 8. INFORMATIONAL ITEM

# STATE COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES – MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

#### Appointment and Vacancies

Executive Director Aaron Carruthers will go over the appointment and vacancy chart in the packet. This chart shows Councilmember term limits as well as information on the seat they represent.

#### Attachment(s)

**Appointment and Vacancy Chart** 

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# Page 1

# **Appointment and Vacancy Tracking Form**

Category	Name	*1st Term Appointment	*2nd Term Appointment	<b>Expiration</b> <b>Date</b>	Expired >60	Expired >120	Sent to G.O.
At Large Institution	Harold Fujita (family advocate)	9/16/2021	10/25/24	10/25/2027			
At Large 1	Eric Ybarra (self-advocate)	3/30/2022		3/30/2025	×		×
At Large 2	Lee Bycel (family advocate)	6/14/2019	08/02/22	8/2/2025			
At Large 3	Harold Ashe (family advocate)	9/16/2021	10/25/24	10/25/2027			
At Large 4	Vacant (Feb 2025)						×
At Large 5	Julie Gaona (self-advocate)	10/20/2022		10/20/2025			
At Large 6	Nestor Nieves (self-advocate)	5/18/2023		5/18/2026			
At Large 7	Nicole Adler (self-advocate)	12/7/2018	03/30/22	3/30/2025	×		×
North Coast Region	Kara Ponton (self-advocate)	6/14/2019	08/02/22	8/2/2025			
North State Region	Rosanna Ryan (self-advocate)	6/14/2019	08/02/22	8/2/2025			
Sacramento Region	Joyce McNair (family advocate)	6/14/2019	08/02/22	8/2/2025			
North Bay Region	Sonia Jones (self-advocate)	5/18/2023		5/18/2026			

Updated June 11, 2025

# Page 2

Updated June 11, 2025

**Appointee Chart** 

# **Appointment and Vacancy Tracking Form**

Category	Name	*1st Term Appointment	*2nd Term Appointment	Expiration Date	Expired >60	Expired >120	Sent to G.O.
Bay Area Region	Alex Reyes (self-advocate)	3/30/2022		3/30/2025	×		×
N. Valley Hills Region	Valdez, Irene (family advocate)	11/7/2024		11/7/2027			
Central Coast Region	Vacant (Oct 2024)						×
Sequoia Region	Nick Lutton (family advocate)	2/11/2025		2/11/2028			
Los Angeles Region	Cathay Liu (family advocate)	9/16/2021	10/25/24	10/25/2027			
Orange County Region	Lupe Rodriguez (family advocate)	6/25/2024		6/25/2027			
San Bernardino Region	Julio Garnica (self-advocate)	7/9/2019	08/02/22	8/2/2025			
San Diego Imperial Region	Jessica Brown (family advocate)	5/18/2023		5/18/2026			
Dept. of Rehabilitation	Kim Rutledge, Director Jessica Grove, Designee	Ongoing	Ongoing				
Dept. of Education	Tony Thurmond, Director Noelia Hernandez, Designee	Ongoing	Ongoing				
Dept. of Aging	Susan DeMarois, Director Mark Beckley, Adam Willoughby, Ana Acton Designees	Ongoing	Ongoing				

# **Appointment and Vacancy Tracking Form**

		*1st Term	*2nd Term	Expiration	Expired	Expired	Sent
Category	Name	Appointment	Appointment	Date	>60	>120	to G.O.
CA Health & Human Services Agency	Mark Ghaly, Secretary Debra Cooper, Designee	Ongoing	Ongoing				
Dept. of Developmental Services	Pete Cervinka, Director Michi Gates, Jim Knight, Ernie Cruz, Aaron Christian, Designees	Ongoing	Ongoing				
Dept. of Health Care Services	Michelle Baass, Director Joseph Bilingsley, Designee	Ongoing	Ongoing				
Disability Rights CA	Andy Imparato, Director Sandra Smith, Designee	Ongoing	Ongoing				
University Center for Excellence UCLA	ctor in Designees	Ongoing	Ongoing				
University Center for Excellence USC	Larry Yin, Director Alexis Deavenport-Saman, Olga Solomon, Christine Mirzaian, Designees	Ongoing	Ongoing				
University Center for Excellence UCD	Aubyn Stahmer, Director Janice Enriquez & Kris Wallman, Designees	Ongoing	Ongoing				
Non-Governmental Agency/Group Concerned with Services to Persons with DD	Julie Neward	12/7/2018	03/30/22	3/30/2025	×		×
Notes: 1) 3- Year Term 2) Appointee can se 3) Continues to serv 4) Of the 20 non-agi	<ol> <li>3- Year Term</li> <li>Appointee can serve two successive terms.</li> <li>3) Continues to serve until appointment of replacement is done.</li> <li>4) Of the 20 non-agency members, at least 7 are people with DD and at least 7 are parent, family member, guardian or conservator of</li> </ol>	t is done. with DD and at lea	st 7 are parent. fami	lv member, gua	rdian or c	nservator	J <sub>O</sub>

24

4) Of the 20 non-agency members, at least 7 are people with DD and at least 7 are parent, family member, guardian or conservator of someone with DD residing in CA. All 20 must fall into one category or the other.

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#### July 8, 2025

#### **AGENDA ITEM 9.**

#### **ACTION ITEM**

# STATE COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES – MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

#### **Applications for Council**

Members will review and make recommendations on applications to fill expiring first and second-term seats.

#### Recommendation

Move selected applicants forward to the interview process.

#### Attachment(s)

Applications for the Following Seats Numbered 904 to 945

- At Large 2
- At Large 5
- North Coast Region
- North State Region
- Sacramento Region
- San Bernardino Region

#### Handout(s)

There may be additional handouts the day of the meeting.

# AT LARGE APPLICATIONS

#### MM-904

Name: REDACTED

Address: REDACTED

County of Residence: REDACTED

Email: REDACTED Phone: REDACTED

Race: Black or African American Gender: Male

What intellectual & developmental disabilities do you have experience with?: Intellectual Disability

I am a: Person with a developmental disability

Are you currently employed by, or a member of the governing board of an organization providing services to persons with developmental disabilities?:

No

Do you want to serve on the State Council or Regional Advisory Committee?:

I want to apply to serve on the State Council

How did your interest in, or knowledge of, the developmental disability field and service system develop?:

Email

What are your areas of interest in the developmental disability field and service system?:

None

Please explain why you wish to serve on the State Council on Developmental Disabilities, or on one of its Regional Advisory Committees:

I want to peer counsel

What strengths would you bring to the State Council and/or Regional Advisory Committee?: N/A

#### MM-905

Name: REDACTED

Address: REDACTED

County of Residence: North State (Butte, Glenn, Lassen, Modoc, Plumas, Shasta, Siskiyou, Tehama,

Trinity)

Email: REDACTED Phone: REDACTED

Race: White Gender:

What intellectual & developmental disabilities do you have experience with?: Cerebral Palsy

I am a: Person with a developmental disability

Are you currently employed by, or a member of the governing board of an organization providing services to persons with developmental disabilities?:

no

Do you want to serve on the State Council or Regional Advisory Committee?:

I want to apply to serve on the State Council

How did your interest in, or knowledge of, the developmental disability field and service system develop?:

lots

What are your areas of interest in the developmental disability field and service system?: lots

Please explain why you wish to serve on the State Council on Developmental Disabilities, or on one of its Regional Advisory Committees:

replacing rosie ryan

What strengths would you bring to the State Council and/or Regional Advisory Committee?: everything

#### **MM-908**

Name: REDACTED

Address: REDACTED

County of Residence: North Coast (Del Norte, Humboldt, Lake, Mendocino)

Email: REDACTED Phone: REDACTED

Race: White Gender: Male

What intellectual & developmental disabilities do you have experience with?: Cerebral Palsy

I am a: Person with a developmental disability

Are you currently employed by, or a member of the governing board of an organization providing services to persons with developmental disabilities?:

Humboldt community Access & Resource Center. I am a program Director Managing the Respite Program and Employment Services program.

Do you want to serve on the State Council or Regional Advisory Committee?:

I want to apply to serve on the State Council

How did your interest in, or knowledge of, the developmental disability field and service system develop?:

I am a person who receives services and have also worked in the service system for almost 20 years.

What are your areas of interest in the developmental disability field and service system?:

I currently work in direct service but have worked for the Regional Center and have my BA in Social Work. I have an interest in state Advocacy and Legislative Policy.

Please explain why you wish to serve on the State Council on Developmental Disabilities, or on one of its Regional Advisory Committees:

I have a passion for Advocacy work. I also believe in building strong networks and community for those we serve.

What strengths would you bring to the State Council and/or Regional Advisory Committee?:

I have a known of the service system I love legislative advocacy work, and i think I represent people we serve well.

#### **MM-909**

Name: REDACTED

Address: REDACTED

County of Residence: North Bay (Napa, Solano, Sonoma)

Email: REDACTED Phone: REDACTED

Race: White Gender: Female

What intellectual & developmental disabilities do you have experience with?: Intellectual Disability,

Autism, Epilepsy, Cerebral Palsy, Rare Congenital Diseases

I am a: Nurse

Are you currently employed by, or a member of the governing board of an organization providing services to persons with developmental disabilities?:

yes NBRC

#### Do you want to serve on the State Council or Regional Advisory Committee?:

I want to apply to serve on the State Council, I want to apply to serve on the Regional Advisory Committee

# How did your interest in, or knowledge of, the developmental disability field and service system develop?:

My interest developed through my work as a nurse consultant, where I support individuals with developmental disabilities. I'm passionate and committed to improve the system to enhance the lives of individuals with IDD

#### What are your areas of interest in the developmental disability field and service system?:

My primary areas of interest in the developmental disability field are improving healthcare access, care coordination, and care management. I am passionate about bridging the gap between healthcare and community services to ensure individuals with complex medical and behavior needs receive timely, high quality care.

### Please explain why you wish to serve on the State Council on Developmental Disabilities, or on one of its Regional Advisory Committees:

I wish to serve on the SCDD because I am deeply committed to advocating for high-quality, person-centered services for individuals with developmental disabilities. I want to contribute to policy improvements that strengthen care coordination between hospitals, regional centers and supported living

programs.

What strengths would you bring to the State Council and/or Regional Advisory Committee?:

As a Senior Nurse Consultant at NBRC, I have extensive experience in managing complex medical cases and coordinating hospital discharges. I bring a unique combination of healthcare expertise, leadership and advocacy to the State Council or Regional Advisory Committee.

#### MM-915

Name: REDACTED

Address: REDACTED

County of Residence: North State (Butte, Glenn, Lassen, Modoc, Plumas, Shasta, Siskiyou, Tehama,

Trinity)

Email: REDACTED Phone: REDACTED

Race: Asian Gender: Male

What intellectual & developmental disabilities do you have experience with?: Intellectual Disability, Autism, Epilepsy, Cerebral Palsy

I am a: Parent, family member, legal guardian or conservator of a person with a developmental disability, Vendor

Are you currently employed by, or a member of the governing board of an organization providing services to persons with developmental disabilities?:

Impact Solution (Vendor FNRC)

Do you want to serve on the State Council or Regional Advisory Committee?:

I want to apply to serve on the State Council

### How did your interest in, or knowledge of, the developmental disability field and service system develop?:

My interest in the developmental disability field and service system developed through both personal and professional experiences. I previously worked at Far Northern Regional Center, where I gained firsthand knowledge of the support systems and services available for individuals with developmental disabilities. This experience deepened my understanding of the challenges they face and the importance of person-centered planning.

Additionally, my passion for this field grew even stronger when I started my own agency, dedicated to helping individuals with disabilities find meaningful opportunities and access the resources they need to thrive. Through this endeavor, I've worked closely with clients, families, and service providers, which has given me valuable insight into the complexities of the system and the need for continuous advocacy and improvement.

On a personal level, having a family member with a disability has given me an even greater appreciation for the impact that quality services and strong support networks can have on an individual's life. This

personal connection has fueled my commitment to making a difference in the lives of those I serve, ensuring that they receive the care, opportunities, and respect they deserve.

What are your areas of interest in the developmental disability field and service system?: My primary areas of interest in the developmental disability field and service system are employment services and Independent Living Services (ILS).

In employment services, I am passionate about helping individuals with disabilities find meaningful and sustainable jobs that align with their strengths and interests. I believe that everyone deserves the opportunity to contribute to their community and gain independence through employment. My experience has shown me the importance of customized job placement, job coaching, and employer education to create inclusive workplaces. I am committed to advocating for employment opportunities that promote dignity, skill development, and long-term success for individuals with disabilities.

In Independent Living Services (ILS), I focus on empowering individuals to develop the skills they need to live as independently as possible. This includes support with daily living tasks, financial management, self-advocacy, and community integration. I believe that fostering independence not only improves quality of life but also builds confidence and self-sufficiency. Through personalized support and training, I aim to help individuals with disabilities achieve their personal goals and lead fulfilling lives.

By working at the intersection of employment services and ILS, I strive to create a holistic support system that enables individuals with disabilities to gain both job stability and life skills, ensuring they have the resources and confidence to thrive in their communities.

# Please explain why you wish to serve on the State Council on Developmental Disabilities, or on one of its Regional Advisory Committees:

I wish to serve on the State Council on Developmental Disabilities (SCDD) because I am deeply committed to advocating for and improving the lives of individuals with developmental disabilities. My experience working at Far Northern Regional Center, starting my own agency to support individuals with disabilities, and having a family member with a disability has given me firsthand insight into the challenges and opportunities within the developmental disability service system.

Through my work in employment services and Independent Living Services (ILS), I have seen how crucial it is to provide person-centered support that empowers individuals to achieve independence, self-sufficiency, and meaningful community inclusion. I believe that serving on the SCDD or a Regional Advisory Committee would allow me to contribute my knowledge and expertise to shape policies, improve service delivery, and advocate for resources that enhance the lives of people with developmental disabilities.

I am particularly passionate about ensuring that individuals have access to employment opportunities that respect their strengths and interests, as well as independent living supports that help them navigate daily life successfully. By serving on the council or committee, I hope to bring a practical, solutions-oriented perspective to policy discussions, bridging the gap between service providers, families, and individuals with disabilities.

Ultimately, my goal is to be a voice for individuals with developmental disabilities and their families,

helping to create a more inclusive, supportive, and effective system that promotes independence, dignity, and self-determination for all.

What strengths would you bring to the State Council and/or Regional Advisory Committee?: I would bring several key strengths to the State Council on Developmental Disabilities (SCDD), including direct experience, advocacy skills, problem-solving abilities, and a deep commitment to empowering

individuals with disabilities.

Professional and Personal Experience – Having worked at Far Northern Regional Center and started my own agency supporting individuals with disabilities, I have firsthand experience navigating the developmental disability service system. Additionally, having a family member with a disability gives me a personal perspective on the challenges faced by individuals and their families. This combination allows me to approach issues with both practical and compassionate insight.

Expertise in Employment Services & Independent Living – My work in employment services and Independent Living Services (ILS) has given me a strong understanding of the barriers individuals with disabilities face in securing jobs and achieving independence. I can contribute practical solutions to improve job placement, job coaching, life skills training, and community integration efforts.

Advocacy and Policy Knowledge – I am passionate about self-advocacy and systemic change. I understand the importance of policies that promote inclusion, access to services, and equitable opportunities. My ability to engage with stakeholders, service providers, employers, and legislators would help ensure that the council's initiatives reflect the real needs of individuals with disabilities.

Strong Communication & Collaboration – I have experience working with diverse teams, service providers, and government agencies, ensuring that individuals with disabilities receive the best support possible. I am skilled at listening to different perspectives, fostering collaboration, and working toward effective solutions.

Commitment to Positive Change – My ultimate goal is to enhance the lives of individuals with developmental disabilities by advocating for better policies, improved services, and greater community inclusion. I am dedicated to promoting independence, dignity, and self-determination for all individuals, and I believe my skills and experience align well with the mission of the State Council or Regional Advisory Committee.

By bringing a combination of direct service experience, advocacy, collaboration, and problem-solving skills, I am confident that I can make a meaningful contribution to the council or committee's work.

#### **MM-916**

Name: REDACTED

Address: REDACTED

County of Residence: North State (Butte, Glenn, Lassen, Modoc, Plumas, Shasta, Siskiyou, Tehama,

Trinity)

Email: REDACTED Phone: REDACTED

Race: White Gender: Male

What intellectual & developmental disabilities do you have experience with?: Autism, Epilepsy, Obsessive

Compulsive Disorder

I am a: Person with a developmental disability

Are you currently employed by, or a member of the governing board of an organization providing services to persons with developmental disabilities?:

No

#### Do you want to serve on the State Council or Regional Advisory Committee?:

I want to apply to serve on the State Council, I want to apply to serve on the Regional Advisory Committee

# How did your interest in, or knowledge of, the developmental disability field and service system develop?:

By living it. When I was in school and had a meltdown, the teacher put my books in a garbage bad and gave it to me, which made it impossible to learn, and that was in 5th grade. I was ahead of my peers in math and reading until about 3rd grade, then the personality problems with teachers and other students began to kick in, it was a struggle to be in the classroom and the worst time to fall behind academically because that's when you learn things in math class like PEMDAS. Also, and this became more of a struggle going into my teenage years and continues to this day, I struggle to socialize; I don't have friends my age or a girlfriend, the isolation became even worse during the Covid-19 pandemic. I had to become a neurodiverse activist. Also, I've previously represented Shasta County's Special Education Local Plan Area (SELPA) at Leg Day, lobbying legislators.

#### What are your areas of interest in the developmental disability field and service system?:

Advocacy, and this is what I advocate for: greater socialization opportunities, especially for young adults, by building on the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and expanding California's Lanterman Act; ending what I term the "technoplundering of the world" i.e. overuse of smartphones and the internet for

better times socializing (I recommend the book "The Anxious Generation: How the Great Rewiring of Childhood Is Causing an Epidemic of Mental Illness" by Jonathon Haidt; expansion of Diversity Equity and Inclusion (DEI) work programs for the disabled and neurodiverse; keeping public schools public, and advocating fully funding the Individuals with Disabilities in Education Act (IDEA) and Individualized Education Plans (IEPs); supporting expanding CalCare into a universal healthcare system with a strong emphasis on mental health coverage and increasing Medicaid funds for programs like In-Home Support Services (IHSS); greater studies into the recently researched links between pollution and autism, as a matter of environmental policy; expansion of low-income housing accessible for people with developmental and physical disabilities; recognition of neurodiversity not as a problem with "behavior" but as a different way the brain works, and as such opposition to Applied Behavioral Analysis (ABA); opposition to discrimination against people with developmental disabilities; ending forced incarceration of people with mental health issues i.e. "Care Courts" for being discriminatory against people with developmental disabilities.

# Please explain why you wish to serve on the State Council on Developmental Disabilities, or on one of its Regional Advisory Committees:

I'd like to meet many new people and form relationships; I'd like to be in an official capacity representing and advocating for people with developmental disabilities, being more involved in advocacy at the state and local level; and I'd like to call attention to the issue of isolation (particularly a problem for the neurodiverse) having a bad radicalizing effect in some cases, and the preventative difference that a helpful intervention that services and/or programs brings to people with developmental disabilities.

What strengths would you bring to the State Council and/or Regional Advisory Committee?: Judgement, both as a student and now young adult whose lived a life with a developmental disability, to understand the problems, outside the box thinking to solve problems, and experience because I've served on the Shasta Union Elementary School District Board of Trustees, I made headlines as one of the youngest (I was elected at 18) and only autistic trustees in the country, and was featued in the California School Board Association (CSBA) magazine.

#### MM-917

Name: REDACTED

Address: REDACTED

County of Residence: North State (Butte, Glenn, Lassen, Modoc, Plumas, Shasta, Siskiyou, Tehama,

Trinity)

Email: REDACTED Phone: REDACTED

Race: White, Hispanic or Latino Gender: Male

What intellectual & developmental disabilities do you have experience with?: Intellectual Disability, Autism

I am a: Parent, family member, legal guardian or conservator of a person with a developmental disability, Representative of the general public

Are you currently employed by, or a member of the governing board of an organization providing services to persons with developmental disabilities?:

No

Do you want to serve on the State Council or Regional Advisory Committee?:

I want to apply to serve on the State Council

# How did your interest in, or knowledge of, the developmental disability field and service system develop?:

After attaining my BFA in Communication Design, I began working as professional staff for Chico State's Recreational Sports program. I learned about Chico State's Neurodiversity and Disability Task Force where I started to attend events like their annual Symposium and pre-symposium events such as their Think Tank where community members all over the nation came together to discuss issues within their departments, shared resources, and created a safe space to voice ideas. My mother works for the Arc of Butte County and when I lived with her she taught me how to care for children on the spectrum and those who also lived with physical disabilities. My little brother has a learning disability and I have cousins who are on the Autism spectrum. I am privileged to understand their experiences and to be someone who can advocate for them.

#### What are your areas of interest in the developmental disability field and service system?:

Trauma healing, substance abuse prevention, generational trauma management, and creating safe spaces/environments that encourage those with mental/physical disabilities to feel like they belong.

Please explain why you wish to serve on the State Council on Developmental Disabilities, or on

#### one of its Regional Advisory Committees:

Having attended the Neurodiversity Symposium encouraged me to apply my skills as a leader, graphic designer, and program manager to increase inclusivity and awareness in our program. I would like to continue to do this at a larger scale.

What strengths would you bring to the State Council and/or Regional Advisory Committee?: I am a bilingual speaker (fluent in verbal and written Spanish), I advocate for the youth, and I am passionate about inclusive design and programming. I'm an avid listener and a compassionate advocate which allows me to understand the complexity of individuals that most can't seem to comprehend.

#### **MM-918**

Name: REDACTED

Address: REDACTED

County of Residence: North State (Butte, Glenn, Lassen, Modoc, Plumas, Shasta, Siskiyou, Tehama,

Trinity)

Email: REDACTED Phone: REDACTED

Race: White Gender: Male

What intellectual & developmental disabilities do you have experience with?: Cerebral Palsy

I am a: Person with a developmental disability

Are you currently employed by, or a member of the governing board of an organization providing services to persons with developmental disabilities?:

Here's The Deal

Do you want to serve on the State Council or Regional Advisory Committee?:

I want to apply to serve on the State Council

# How did your interest in, or knowledge of, the developmental disability field and service system develop?:

I have always advocated for myself, as my parents taught me to have a good self-esteem in spite of my severe disability. I had the good fortune to grow up in a very supportive family and wanted nothing more than to be like my siblings. Years ago, I was going to law school in Sacramento and I injured my foot and had to take a medical leave, so I decided to move back to Chico, and I had bills to pay so I got a job teaching ILS to individuals with developmental disabilities and found my passion and started Here's The Deal 26 years ago.

What are your areas of interest in the developmental disability field and service system?:

Advocacy, Legislation and Service Delivery

# Please explain why you wish to serve on the State Council on Developmental Disabilities, or on one of its Regional Advisory Committees:

In these incredibly challenging times, it is important to have a realistic approach to providing supports for individuals within our system and we have to look at possible different ways to help people within our system maximize their full potentials.

What strengths would you bring to the State Council and/or Regional Advisory Committee?:

I have a good understanding of our system and am always looking to improve the lives of myself and others and I am looking forward to the opportunity to gain and share my knowledge with others.

#### MM-920

Name: REDACTED

Address: REDACTED

County of Residence: North Valley Hills (Amador, Calaveras, San Joaquin, Stanislaus, Tuolumne)

Email: REDACTED Phone: REDACTED

Race: Hispanic or Latino Gender: Male

What intellectual & developmental disabilities do you have experience with?: Intellectual Disability, Autism, Epilepsy, Cerebral Palsy

I am a: Parent, family member, legal guardian or conservator of a person with a developmental disability, Representative of the general public

Are you currently employed by, or a member of the governing board of an organization providing services to persons with developmental disabilities?:

N/a

#### Do you want to serve on the State Council or Regional Advisory Committee?:

I want to apply to serve on the State Council, I want to apply to serve on the Regional Advisory Committee

# How did your interest in, or knowledge of, the developmental disability field and service system develop?:

I am currently a college student seeking a career in the medical fields. I am actively completing the pre-requisites for the nursing program but most of my additional coursework has been in the major of psychology. I believe that this is a great opportunity for me to begin familiarizing myself with the various impacts of disabilities and take an active role in providing aid to those whom need it.

#### What are your areas of interest in the developmental disability field and service system?:

My areas of interest are mainly with physical disabilities. I have worked in the role of a caregiver for many years and I genuinely find myself enjoying the work of aiding another whether that be with activities of daily living, or personal and/or hygienic care for a person. I do also want to gain experience with mental/psychological disabilities because I feel that it will help me be a more versatile health-care professional in the future.

Please explain why you wish to serve on the State Council on Developmental Disabilities, or on one of its Regional Advisory Committees:

I wish to serve on the State Council on Developmental Disabilities and its Regional Advisory Committees because I feel that this service not only allows for me to further be educated on health related illnesses but also has a set goal that lines up with my values as an individual. Serving on the State Council on Developmental Disabilities is a true opportunity for me to learn, share, and take an active role in advocating for individuals with various disabilities.

What strengths would you bring to the State Council and/or Regional Advisory Committee?:

I believe my biggest strength that I can bring to the State Council and Regional Advisory Committee is my willingness to learn; furthermore, I am an individual who can committ to a set goal and do everything within my capabilities to bring me closer to said goal. I also believe myself to have leadership qualities, though I am still a young adult actively growing with every new experience, that is why I hope that I can be considered for my strengths by the State Council/Regional Advisory Committee.

#### MM-921

Name: REDACTED

Address: REDACTED

County of Residence: Los Angeles (Los Angeles)

Email: REDACTED Phone: REDACTED

Race: White Gender: Female

What intellectual & developmental disabilities do you have experience with?: Intellectual Disability,

**Epilepsy** 

I am a: Person with a developmental disability

Are you currently employed by, or a member of the governing board of an organization providing services to persons with developmental disabilities?:

No

Do you want to serve on the State Council or Regional Advisory Committee?:

I want to apply to serve on the State Council, I want to apply to serve on the Regional Advisory Committee

How did your interest in, or knowledge of, the developmental disability field and service system develop?:

Text message from a friend

What are your areas of interest in the developmental disability field and service system?:

I want financial independence from my family and j want to leave home for good when my pets

Please explain why you wish to serve on the State Council on Developmental Disabilities, or on one of its Regional Advisory Committees:

I need things to change for me

What strengths would you bring to the State Council and/or Regional Advisory Committee?: I'm quite assertive.

#### MM-922

Name: REDACTED

Address: REDACTED

County of Residence: North Valley Hills (Amador, Calaveras, San Joaquin, Stanislaus, Tuolumne)

Email: REDACTED Phone: REDACTED

Race: Two or more races Gender: Female

What intellectual & developmental disabilities do you have experience with?: Autism, ADHD, INSOMNIA

I am a: Parent, family member, legal guardian or conservator of a person with a developmental disability

Are you currently employed by, or a member of the governing board of an organization providing services to persons with developmental disabilities?:

No

Do you want to serve on the State Council or Regional Advisory Committee?:

I want to apply to serve on the State Council

How did your interest in, or knowledge of, the developmental disability field and service system develop?:

Raising my son

#### What are your areas of interest in the developmental disability field and service system?:

Autism, my son was diagnosed being nonverbal level 3 autism, and he had aba from age 3 to age 9, he became verbal coordinated. Became an artist verbal a straight a student, but because he had to suffer through the process of family court. I wish I could say things went better than they did. It was 6 years of watching him suffer crying out to the court. And no one caring about the welding of my child hearing other stories of children that actually suffered the same way and I need to speak out to make change. So no more families, I don't actually suffer. I learned so much that I need to share this with others. So I want to join your committee to share what i've learned to help family laws to be available to protect those on the spectrum dealing with reunification and separations. 1 in ever 36 have autism. Separations and divorces ate not going to stop. Judges, court mediators and court appointed therapist asap need to educated on Autism so kids stop committing suicide while being afraid during the process. I need to help this cause so other families stop suffering.

Please explain why you wish to serve on the State Council on Developmental Disabilities, or on one of its Regional Advisory Committees:

Autism - family laws are not available to protect those on the spectrum dealing with reunification and separations. Judges, court mediators and court appointed therapist asap need to educated on Autism so kids stop committing suicide while being afraid during the process. I need to help this cause so other families stop suffering. The state of California never cared about the well being of my son, was 6 years and many hospital trips and medication to help son be calm not afraid during the process of reunification eith a biological father he was terrified of. Son was diagnosed with insomnia diring that time because the anxiety and the stress brought it on. He lost 3 yrs education and autism falls under the ADA laws yet no lawyers no attorney no agency would help save my son from his suffering. The doctors wrote letters to the biological father and to the court telling them how sons afraid of biological father was never married and moved from nv to ca with permission by the court to get away from sons biological father's domestic violence.

What strengths would you bring to the State Council and/or Regional Advisory Committee?: Advocate for autism, adhd, Insomnia and children going through family court.

#### MM-923

Name: REDACTED

Address: REDACTED

County of Residence: Sequoia (Fresno, Kern, Kings, Madera, Mariposa, Merced, Tulare)

Email: REDACTED Phone: REDACTED

Race: White Gender: Female

What intellectual & developmental disabilities do you have experience with?: Intellectual Disability,

Autism, ADHD

I am a: Parent, family member, legal guardian or conservator of a person with a developmental disability

Are you currently employed by, or a member of the governing board of an organization providing services to persons with developmental disabilities?:

**IHSS UDW AFSCME LOCAL 3830** 

Do you want to serve on the State Council or Regional Advisory Committee?:

I want to apply to serve on the State Council

# How did your interest in, or knowledge of, the developmental disability field and service system develop?:

My son has a disability and Kern County has failed him in every way. The county offices regional center. They offer no resources. information to guide you there's no events, funds, fundraisers library's that offer anything for children with disabilities. Our states websites has been my only guidance with laws and rights as well as helping you understand your the voice they have rights and they deserve the best.

#### What are your areas of interest in the developmental disability field and service system?:

Education Equal Rights Programs to live life to the fullest

# Please explain why you wish to serve on the State Council on Developmental Disabilities, or on one of its Regional Advisory Committees:

My sons voice needs to be herd it's been so hard being turned away told no sorry we don't help with that and lied to because the funding

#### What strengths would you bring to the State Council and/or Regional Advisory Committee?:

Every strength I possible can. But most of all strength for they way people with disabilities are treated my sons my strength.

#### MM-924

Name: REDACTED

Address: REDACTED

County of Residence: San Diego Imperial (Imperial, San Diego)

Email: REDACTED Phone: REDACTED

Race: Black or African American Gender: Female

What intellectual & developmental disabilities do you have experience with?: Intellectual Disability,

Autism, Epilepsy

I am a: Parent, family member, legal guardian or conservator of a person with a developmental disability

Are you currently employed by, or a member of the governing board of an organization providing services to persons with developmental disabilities?:

No

#### Do you want to serve on the State Council or Regional Advisory Committee?:

I want to apply to serve on the State Council, I want to apply to serve on the Regional Advisory Committee

# How did your interest in, or knowledge of, the developmental disability field and service system develop?:

I have two children that are autistic; my younger child has an intellectual disability. Before I had children, I have volunteered at schools advocating for student rights, mentoring, supporting children's emotional needs and also being a voice and listening ear for the parents.

#### What are your areas of interest in the developmental disability field and service system?:

I have experience leading diverse groups, building consensus, and ensuring that all voices are heard. This helps in fostering inclusive and productive discussions.

# Please explain why you wish to serve on the State Council on Developmental Disabilities, or on one of its Regional Advisory Committees:

I have experience leading diverse groups, building consensus, and ensuring that all voices are heard. This helps in fostering inclusive and productive discussions. I am deeply committed to promoting equity, particularly in addressing systemic barriers faced by underserved communities. This lens informs how I approach both policy and program evaluation

#### What strengths would you bring to the State Council and/or Regional Advisory Committee?:

I bring a strong combination of collaboration, strategic thinking, and a deep commitment to equity. I have experience working with diverse communities and stakeholders, and I excel at building partnerships that drive results. My ability to listen actively, synthesize information, and advocate for inclusive, data-driven solutions would support the Council's mission. I also bring a regional perspective, grounded in hands-on experience with local challenges and opportunities, which allows me to contribute practical insights and bridge the gap between policy and implementation.

#### MM-925

Name: REDACTED

Address: REDACTED

County of Residence: Bay Area (Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, San Francisco, San Mateo)

Email: REDACTED Phone: REDACTED

Race: White Gender: Male

What intellectual & developmental disabilities do you have experience with?: Intellectual Disability,

Cerebral Palsy

I am a: Parent, family member, legal guardian or conservator of a person with a developmental disability

Are you currently employed by, or a member of the governing board of an organization providing services to persons with developmental disabilities?:

No

Do you want to serve on the State Council or Regional Advisory Committee?:

I want to apply to serve on the State Council

How did your interest in, or knowledge of, the developmental disability field and service system develop?:

Over 6 decades as a sibling and now conservator of my elder sister Elizabeth, we have worked with just about every local program for people with developmental disabilities/differences...and have been clients of the Golden Gate Regional Center for many, many years (1979??). I coached Special Olympics with Liz and was involved with The ARC as well.

#### What are your areas of interest in the developmental disability field and service system?:

To carry on the legacy of our Mom's optimism and perseverance. To provide effective, meaningful and empathetic service and expertise as a sibling/care provider/advocate and to bring all my skills to the State Council. My Big Sister Liz was never supposed to walk...let alone read, write or do any of the things our mom Joan Hardy Twomey made possible for Liz by seeking out resources in the 70's and then making available those things to Liz (and others) that were not yet mainstream. Big Sister Liz does her part every day to improve, grow and continue to overcome great obstacles, including now getting older herself.

Please explain why you wish to serve on the State Council on Developmental Disabilities, or on one of its Regional Advisory Committees:

I am interested in my Big Sister Liz and others like her...I always try to be her biggest supporter...since we

were kids. I am also aware that there are so many others like Liz who don't have family members able to be there and fight for them. I want to do more.

#### What strengths would you bring to the State Council and/or Regional Advisory Committee?:

I have witnessed our Mom's struggles to deliver resources for Liz until her (our Mom's) death in 2000 and have carried that torch for Liz since. Navigating with Liz through the many programs and utilizing my own experiences in the State Legislature as a Chief of Staff, as a non-profit administrator, and currently as a State Special Investigator. I am uniquely qualified/positioned to be of service to the State Council and the individuals with developmental differences that benefit from the Council's work. I welcome this opportunity.

#### MM-926

Name: REDACTED

Address: REDACTED

County of Residence: Sacramento (Alpine, Colusa, El Dorado, Nevada, Placer, Sacramento, Sierra,

Sutter, Yolo, Yuba)

Email: REDACTED Phone: REDACTED

Race: White Gender: Female

What intellectual & developmental disabilities do you have experience with?: Intellectual Disability, 22q11

I am a: Person with a developmental disability

Are you currently employed by, or a member of the governing board of an organization providing services to persons with developmental disabilities?:

yes

Do you want to serve on the State Council or Regional Advisory Committee?:

I want to apply to serve on the State Council

How did your interest in, or knowledge of, the developmental disability field and service system develop?:

helping others

What are your areas of interest in the developmental disability field and service system?: social media networking self-advocate

Please explain why you wish to serve on the State Council on Developmental Disabilities, or on one of its Regional Advisory Committees:

I want to give back to the community

What strengths would you bring to the State Council and/or Regional Advisory Committee?: people skills

#### MM-927

Name: REDACTED

Address: REDACTED

County of Residence: Los Angeles (Los Angeles)

Email: REDACTED Phone: REDACTED

Race: Hispanic or Latino Gender: Female

What intellectual & developmental disabilities do you have experience with?: Autism

I am a: Parent, family member, legal guardian or conservator of a person with a developmental disability

Are you currently employed by, or a member of the governing board of an organization providing services to persons with developmental disabilities?:

No

#### Do you want to serve on the State Council or Regional Advisory Committee?:

I want to apply to serve on the State Council, I want to apply to serve on the Regional Advisory Committee

How did your interest in, or knowledge of, the developmental disability field and service system develop?:

My son has autism and I am interested in advocating for him and others with developmental disabilities

What are your areas of interest in the developmental disability field and service system?:

I am primarily interested in autism and I am supportive of all developmental disabilities

Please explain why you wish to serve on the State Council on Developmental Disabilities, or on one of its Regional Advisory Committees:

I wish to serve on the State Council on Developmental Disabilities so I can make an impact for people with developmental disabilities in California. I am devoted to supporting my son, who has autism, in any way I can. One way of supporting him and others with developmental disabilities would be to strongly advocate for their needs at the state level to make sure that their needs continue to be met, especially given the current threats to support at the federal level. It is critical now, more than ever, that the support system for individuals with disabilities remain in place so they can build healthy lives.

What strengths would you bring to the State Council and/or Regional Advisory Committee?:

I bring strong leadership skills, I am an effective communicator, I enjoy collaborating with others, I operate

with authenticity and integrity, I bring strong organizational skills and am responsive to inquiries and requests, I hold myself accountable for my responsibilities, I like to be creative when coming up with solutions, and I am deeply passionate about this topic.

#### **MM-928**

Name: REDACTED

Address: REDACTED

County of Residence: Bay Area (Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, San Francisco, San Mateo)

Email: REDACTED Phone: REDACTED

Race: White Gender: Male

What intellectual & developmental disabilities do you have experience with?: Cerebral Palsy, I've done extensive research with, and for, autistic and rare disease communities.

I am a: Person with a developmental disability, Pediatric Disability Bioethicist

Are you currently employed by, or a member of the governing board of an organization providing services to persons with developmental disabilities?:

No

Do you want to serve on the State Council or Regional Advisory Committee?:

I want to apply to serve on the State Council

# How did your interest in, or knowledge of, the developmental disability field and service system develop?:

I was diagnosed with Cerebral Palsy at nine months old. From a very early age, I felt a disconnect between the expectations I had for myself and those that many in my community had for individuals with developmental disabilities. My special education pre-kindergarten teacher fought against my placement at a segregated elementary school in Miami-Dade County, and enabled me to become the first student with significant developmental disabilities to be fully integrated into the district's general education program. I knew that my brain would be my strongest weapon against the ableist assumptions of those around me, and I pushed myself to excel academically. My parents became partners in challenging the status quo, teaching me how to effectively advocate for myself and others. My career as a disability advocate officially began at age 16 when I became the first student representative on Miami-Dade County's Superintendent's Advisory Panel for Special Education. From then on, my intellectual pursuits and achievements have always been tied to identifying and dismantling barriers to social equality for individuals with disabilities.

My life restarted when I matriculated at Harvard College in 2008. Beyond the challenges with college transition that most 18 year olds confront, the physical environment was not accessible and the administrators who were meant to facilitate access to my education were hostile and obstructionist. I was denied access to note-takers, sufficient extended time on tests, and typists to help me complete term

papers. I was denied access to typists on grounds that the university was not obligated to pay for services "to complete homework". I refused to accept that, and with the help of my mentor took my complaint to the president of the university who approved my accommodations and subsequently ordered a university-wide review of disability services. Two individuals were replaced and the university implemented new rules to make it easier for students to receive accommodations.

At each subsequent stage of my career, I've confronted and overcome similar obstacles. Every new opportunity comes with a different institutional structure that has to learn how to accommodate me. Similarly, my support infrastructure of caregivers and typists has evolved with my growing professional responsibilities. As a pediatric bioethicist at Stanford University, I combine this lived experience with my expertise in disability bioethics to research health equity and advocate for families dealing with similar support systems to those my parents and I navigated 20 years ago. As rewarding as my work is, it is also frustrating to see the same issues of equity and access manifest themselves. The opportunity to serve on the SCDD would enable me to take my advocacy to a higher level, helping improve service delivery for Californians with developmental disabilities.

What are your areas of interest in the developmental disability field and service system?: Health equity, particularly access to healthcare and clinical research for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Access to accessible transportation and housing for people with IDD.

# Please explain why you wish to serve on the State Council on Developmental Disabilities, or on one of its Regional Advisory Committees:

I wish to serve on the SCDD because I want to extend my disability advocacy beyond the Stanford School of Medicine. Having spent most of the past decade in the Bay Area, I am continually frustrated by the disconnect between the Bay Area's progressive ethos and its inaccessibility. For example, there is no accessible aquatic therapy pool convenient to where I live. Warm water decreases the spasticity many individuals with CP experience and can be an invaluable form of exercise. While I am fortunate to live in a part of San Francisco that has robust public transportation, when I was a student on Stanford's campus it was incredibly difficult and expensive to find accessible transportation outside of Santa Clara County. I would use my position to do what I can to change some of these parts of life that make being a person with developmental disabilities in California more difficult. On a more personal note, I welcome the opportunity to build relationships with like-minded disabled people and our allies.

# What strengths would you bring to the State Council and/or Regional Advisory Committee?: I am well-organized and detail-oriented. My friends and mentors say that I'm good at building and maintaining relationships. Given my academic background, I also bring to the table strong analytical and writing skills. I consider myself thoughtful, approachable, and fair-minded. Serving on the SCDD will enable me to apply and refine these skills particularly to the advocacy process.

#### MM-929

Name: REDACTED

Address: REDACTED

County of Residence: Orange County (Orange)

Email: REDACTED Phone: REDACTED

Race: Two or more races Gender: Female

What intellectual & developmental disabilities do you have experience with?: Intellectual Disability, Digital Accessibility experience

I am a: Parent, family member, legal guardian or conservator of a person with a developmental disability, Representative of the general public

Are you currently employed by, or a member of the governing board of an organization providing services to persons with developmental disabilities?:

Yes. Nurse Next Door

#### Do you want to serve on the State Council or Regional Advisory Committee?:

I want to apply to serve on the State Council, I want to apply to serve on the Regional Advisory Committee

# How did your interest in, or knowledge of, the developmental disability field and service system develop?:

My interest developed through both professional and deeply personal experiences. For over 11 years, I have attended the CSUN Assistive Technology Conference, where I engaged with leaders in accessibility, advocacy, and inclusive design. While working at Allyant, I helped organizations ensure their websites and documents were accessible to blind users and compliant with WCAG, ADA, and Section 508 standards—primarily for clients in healthcare, education, and government. These efforts gave me a deeper understanding of the barriers individuals with disabilities face in accessing essential information and services.

At the same time, I've served as a caregiver and advocate for my own family. My mother has Alzheimer's, and I assist with her daily care. I also advocate for my father, a Vietnam veteran, and my brother, a Gulf War veteran—both California residents navigating complex healthcare and disability systems. These experiences have connected me directly to the developmental and aging disability support networks in our state and shown me the urgent need for coordinated, person-centered solutions.

#### What are your areas of interest in the developmental disability field and service system?:

My core interests lie in improving accessibility, care coordination, and family-centered support—particularly in areas where developmental disabilities intersect with aging, chronic conditions, and community living. I am passionate about the role of technology in making systems more inclusive, and I believe we can do more to ensure all Californians with disabilities—regardless of their age or background—have equitable access to care, resources, and communication.

In my current role with Nurse Next Door, I work closely with seniors and families to coordinate in-home care that supports independence and safety. Many of our clients live with developmental or cognitive disabilities, and I see firsthand the gaps in available support. These experiences motivate me to contribute toward building bridges between medical, social, and state-based services for individuals and their caregivers.

# Please explain why you wish to serve on the State Council on Developmental Disabilities, or on one of its Regional Advisory Committees:

I wish to serve because I bring a unique blend of personal caregiving, professional advocacy, and policy-facing experience that aligns with the Council's mission. I believe deeply in inclusion, choice, and dignity for people with developmental disabilities—and in the importance of listening to both self-advocates and family members who live these challenges every day.

Serving on the State Council or a Regional Advisory Committee would give me the opportunity to contribute my voice to the systems I already navigate in my daily life. Whether it's through accessibility work, direct care coordination, or community engagement, I've seen how small improvements in service delivery can transform someone's quality of life. I would be honored to help advance the Council's work to shape more inclusive programs, partnerships, and policies across California.

#### What strengths would you bring to the State Council and/or Regional Advisory Committee?:

I bring a multi-dimensional perspective that combines technical knowledge of accessibility, hands-on experience in home care coordination, and lived insight as a family caregiver and advocate. My professional background includes more than a decade of working with clients in accessibility and compliance, ensuring services are understandable, inclusive, and legally compliant. I am comfortable working across public and private sectors, and I understand the importance of systems thinking and follow-through.

Personally, I've navigated Medi-Cal, veteran services, and developmental disability systems for my loved ones, giving me compassion and practical insight into where those systems succeed—and where they leave people behind. I'm a strong communicator, a persistent problem-solver, and a passionate advocate for those who can't always speak for themselves.

#### **MM-930**

Name: REDACTED

Address: REDACTED

County of Residence: North State (Butte, Glenn, Lassen, Modoc, Plumas, Shasta, Siskiyou, Tehama,

Trinity)

Email: REDACTED Phone: REDACTED

Race: Two or more races Gender: Female

What intellectual & developmental disabilities do you have experience with?: Autism, ADHD

I am a: Parent, family member, legal guardian or conservator of a person with a developmental disability, Disability Advisory Committee member, Chair of Neurodiversity Subcommittee, Program Manager for Neurospicy Brainwaves Neurodivergent Affinity Group

Are you currently employed by, or a member of the governing board of an organization providing services to persons with developmental disabilities?:

No

Do you want to serve on the State Council or Regional Advisory Committee?:

I want to apply to serve on the State Council

How did your interest in, or knowledge of, the developmental disability field and service system develop?:

When struggling in the rural north state to find care for my severely autistic son and turning to the SCDD for help obtaining assistive technology, I saw how overwhelming it can be for parents. The SCDD helped a lot.I also received poor treatment at my employer for having a disabled child. I developed a lot of compassion for parents and people of all ages with disabilities from these experiences. I continue to find ways to give back and learn more about the plight of those with developmental disabilities.

What are your areas of interest in the developmental disability field and service system?:

I have an interest in recruitment of specialists, rural health care issues effecting the north state, coordinating trainings, support groups, and other assistance for caregivers and individuals with disabilities.

Please explain why you wish to serve on the State Council on Developmental Disabilities, or on one of its Regional Advisory Committees:

As a parent of an autistic child and an employee of the Department of Managed Health Care involved in

disability advocacy work, I have an interest in coordinating with state stakeholders who are passionate about improving the lives of those with disabilities.

What strengths would you bring to the State Council and/or Regional Advisory Committee?: I have a background in journalism and writing which has aided me in my advocacy work. I am also focused on achieving goals in a group environment, while focusing on including all voices and not dominating the conversation. My goal is to make a difference, not to obtain credit for any group accomplishments. This mindset has aided me in my endeavors.

#### MM-931

Name: REDACTED

Address: REDACTED

County of Residence: North Coast (Del Norte, Humboldt, Lake, Mendocino)

Email: REDACTED Phone: REDACTED

Race: White, American Indian or Alaska Native, Two or more races Gender: Female

What intellectual & developmental disabilities do you have experience with?: TBI, PTSD, Trauma

I am a: Person with a developmental disability, Parent, family member, legal guardian or conservator of a person with a developmental disability

Are you currently employed by, or a member of the governing board of an organization providing services to persons with developmental disabilities?:

Do you want to serve on the State Council or Regional Advisory Committee?:

I want to apply to serve on the State Council, I want to apply to serve on the Regional Advisory Committee

How did your interest in, or knowledge of, the developmental disability field and service system develop?:

Lived Experience

What are your areas of interest in the developmental disability field and service system?: Homelessness and Mental Health

Please explain why you wish to serve on the State Council on Developmental Disabilities, or on one of its Regional Advisory Committees:

To participate in community activities directed at enriching the lives of disabled people

What strengths would you bring to the State Council and/or Regional Advisory Committee?: Lived experience, former BIPOC and DEIJ committee work, and education.

#### MM-932

Name: REDACTED

Address: REDACTED

County of Residence: Bay Area (Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, San Francisco, San Mateo)

Email: REDACTED Phone: REDACTED

Race: White Gender: Female

What intellectual & developmental disabilities do you have experience with?: Intellectual Disability, Autism, Epilepsy

I am a: Parent, family member, legal guardian or conservator of a person with a developmental disability, Representative of the general public

Are you currently employed by, or a member of the governing board of an organization providing services to persons with developmental disabilities?:

Theconnectedparent.net

Do you want to serve on the State Council or Regional Advisory Committee?:

I want to apply to serve on the State Council

How did your interest in, or knowledge of, the developmental disability field and service system develop?:

My mother is disabled due to schizoaffective disorder, and my daughter has Autism, Epilepsy and IDD.

What are your areas of interest in the developmental disability field and service system?:

Efficiency, community connection and inclusion

Please explain why you wish to serve on the State Council on Developmental Disabilities, or on one of its Regional Advisory Committees:

I am a parent, daughter, and community member who wants to serve this incredible population to make things better. .

What strengths would you bring to the State Council and/or Regional Advisory Committee?:

Small business, MA in Special Education, Executor and builder in tech for better real-life impactful solutions

#### **MM-933**

Name: REDACTED

Address: REDACTED

County of Residence: Orange County (Orange)

Email: REDACTED Phone: REDACTED

Race: Black or African American Gender: Female

What intellectual & developmental disabilities do you have experience with?: Intellectual Disability, Autism

I am a: Parent, family member, legal guardian or conservator of a person with a developmental disability

Are you currently employed by, or a member of the governing board of an organization providing services to persons with developmental disabilities?:

**IHSS** 

Do you want to serve on the State Council or Regional Advisory Committee?:

I want to apply to serve on the State Council, I want to apply to serve on the Regional Advisory Committee

How did your interest in, or knowledge of, the developmental disability field and service system develop?:

Website

What are your areas of interest in the developmental disability field and service system?:

Education and resources

Please explain why you wish to serve on the State Council on Developmental Disabilities, or on one of its Regional Advisory Committees:

As a parent of a child with a disability, I see the struggles we have to get resources and or clear answers to help us with our struggles, and I feel their needs to be more people to advocate for parents like me

What strengths would you bring to the State Council and/or Regional Advisory Committee?:

Medical background very determined very passionate and very concerned for our children and adults living with disabilities who feel that they do not have the support they need in the community

#### MM-934

Name: REDACTED

Address: REDACTED

County of Residence: Bay Area (Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, San Francisco, San Mateo)

Email: REDACTED Phone: REDACTED

Race: White Gender: Female

What intellectual & developmental disabilities do you have experience with?: Intellectual Disability, Autism, ADHD

I am a: Parent, family member, legal guardian or conservator of a person with a developmental disability, Professional with experience supporting individuals with disabilities

Are you currently employed by, or a member of the governing board of an organization providing services to persons with developmental disabilities?:

No

#### Do you want to serve on the State Council or Regional Advisory Committee?:

I want to apply to serve on the State Council, I want to apply to serve on the Regional Advisory Committee

How did your interest in, or knowledge of, the developmental disability field and service system develop?:

Have been a professional in the field for 20 years, have a son with ADHD

What are your areas of interest in the developmental disability field and service system?:

Most of my experience is with autism and successful inclusive education

Please explain why you wish to serve on the State Council on Developmental Disabilities, or on one of its Regional Advisory Committees:

Would love to be more involved in serving this population on a broader scale and impacting meaningful change

What strengths would you bring to the State Council and/or Regional Advisory Committee?:

Passion for change, experience with successes and challenges in training professionals to support individuals with developmental disabilities, joys and struggles having a kiddo with ADHD

#### MM-935

Name: REDACTED

Address: REDACTED

County of Residence: Sacramento (Alpine, Colusa, El Dorado, Nevada, Placer, Sacramento, Sierra,

Sutter, Yolo, Yuba)

Email: REDACTED Phone: REDACTED

Race: White Gender: Female

What intellectual & developmental disabilities do you have experience with?: Intellectual Disability,

Physical

I am a: Parent, family member, legal guardian or conservator of a person with a developmental disability,

My own disabilities

Are you currently employed by, or a member of the governing board of an organization providing services to persons with developmental disabilities?:

No

Do you want to serve on the State Council or Regional Advisory Committee?:

I want to apply to serve on the State Council

How did your interest in, or knowledge of, the developmental disability field and service system develop?:

I have always had to push for what my son needed to him achieve his goals in life.

What are your areas of interest in the developmental disability field and service system?:

More money to help the disabled to be able to achieve a career or comfortable way of living able to eat and their medication and the family not have to worry about which one is more important.

Please explain why you wish to serve on the State Council on Developmental Disabilities, or on one of its Regional Advisory Committees:

CA to bring my life experience living with raising, working with and dealing with my own mental health issues of all different types and different levels in life. I have been here first hand and know how much the community and families need the states support to be able to help us with as a productive life as possible.

What strengths would you bring to the State Council and/or Regional Advisory Committee?:

CA I can bring my first hand knowledge of working with special needs children and adults in many different areas. I worked in the classrooms, drove school buses, coached Special Olympics, mentored, and the most rewarding of all I raised my children that has been diagnosed with autism, and bi polar. I am no means an expert but, I have the passion for helping others and understanding what the disabled and lower income communities need to survive.

#### **MM-936**

Name: REDACTED

Address: REDACTED

County of Residence: Bay Area (Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, San Francisco, San Mateo)

Email: REDACTED Phone: REDACTED

Race: White Gender: Male

What intellectual & developmental disabilities do you have experience with?: Attention Deficit

Hyperactivity Disorder

I am a: Person with a developmental disability

Are you currently employed by, or a member of the governing board of an organization providing services to persons with developmental disabilities?:

Commission on Disabilities-San Mateo County

Do you want to serve on the State Council or Regional Advisory Committee?:

I want to apply to serve on the State Council, I want to apply to serve on the Regional Advisory Committee

How did your interest in, or knowledge of, the developmental disability field and service system develop?:

Special Olympics Athlete for 15+ years

What are your areas of interest in the developmental disability field and service system?:

ΑII

Please explain why you wish to serve on the State Council on Developmental Disabilities, or on one of its Regional Advisory Committees:

To be an advocate for people with disabilities.

What strengths would you bring to the State Council and/or Regional Advisory Committee?:

I have 28 years of experience with a unique disability.

An Advocate for those with disabilities and Commissioner of Disabilities for 6 years

Previously worked at Special Olympics Northern California, first as an intern, then as a Government

Relations Coordinator under Ilisa Kessler.

.

Was a YO! Intern/Volunteer at the Center for Independence of Individuals with Disabilities for 2 years under Ben McMullan and Russell Rawlings

.

Enthusiastic and Outgoing, I love interacting with people from various walks of life.

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A hunger to continue to learn more about how to best advocate for those with disabilities and how they can be included within the community.

#### **MM-939**

Name: REDACTED

Address: REDACTED

County of Residence: North State (Butte, Glenn, Lassen, Modoc, Plumas, Shasta, Siskiyou, Tehama,

Trinity)

Email: REDACTED Phone: REDACTED

Race: White Gender: Female

What intellectual & developmental disabilities do you have experience with?: Intellectual Disability,

Epilepsy, Cerebral Palsy

I am a: Parent, family member, legal guardian or conservator of a person with a developmental disability

Are you currently employed by, or a member of the governing board of an organization providing services to persons with developmental disabilities?:

no

#### Do you want to serve on the State Council or Regional Advisory Committee?:

I want to apply to serve on the State Council, I want to apply to serve on the Regional Advisory Committee

# How did your interest in, or knowledge of, the developmental disability field and service system develop?:

it started in high school when I volunteered at the special needs class of Loma vista and developed into a passion when I had my youngest son born with developmental delay, epilepsy and CP. I then worked for our local county special education department with children with special needs in a pre school setting.

#### What are your areas of interest in the developmental disability field and service system?:

Advocacy for students and families and making sure families have all the information they need to make the best decision they can for their child.

# Please explain why you wish to serve on the State Council on Developmental Disabilities, or on one of its Regional Advisory Committees:

I get so many families in our community asking questions from medical to education because the information available is not as known to new parents especially since it is a scary time for parents and I want to make this journey the best for them I can.

#### What strengths would you bring to the State Council and/or Regional Advisory Committee?:

I fight for what is right and try to get all the information on the topic I can by research and reaching out to community members or others further out who can help. I also bring an understanding of what they may be experiencing and help navigate some trials they may be going through.

#### MM-940

Name: REDACTED

Address: REDACTED

County of Residence: San Bernardino (Inyo, Mono, Riverside, San Bernardino)

Email: REDACTED Phone: REDACTED

Race: American Indian or Alaska Native Gender: Male

What intellectual & developmental disabilities do you have experience with?: Intellectual Disability

I am a: Person with a developmental disability

Are you currently employed by, or a member of the governing board of an organization providing services to persons with developmental disabilities?:

Jay bay

Do you want to serve on the State Council or Regional Advisory Committee?:

I want to apply to serve on the State Council, I want to apply to serve on the Regional Advisory Committee

How did your interest in, or knowledge of, the developmental disability field and service system develop?:

Struggles working through the system

What are your areas of interest in the developmental disability field and service system?:

Ensuring programs that meet the needs of individuals with developmental disabilities

Please explain why you wish to serve on the State Council on Developmental Disabilities, or on one of its Regional Advisory Committees:

Because I feel like the voices of development disabled youth and young adults aren't heard

What strengths would you bring to the State Council and/or Regional Advisory Committee?:

Problem solving and wide knowledge of many subjects

#### MM-941

Name: REDACTED

Address: REDACTED

County of Residence: Sacramento (Alpine, Colusa, El Dorado, Nevada, Placer, Sacramento, Sierra,

Sutter, Yolo, Yuba)

Email: REDACTED Phone: REDACTED

Race: White Gender: non binary

What intellectual & developmental disabilities do you have experience with?: Autism, Cerebral Palsy, ADHD, Sensory processing disorder

I am a: Person with a developmental disability, Parent, family member, legal guardian or conservator of a person with a developmental disability

Are you currently employed by, or a member of the governing board of an organization providing services to persons with developmental disabilities?:

IHSS

#### Do you want to serve on the State Council or Regional Advisory Committee?:

I want to apply to serve on the State Council, I want to apply to serve on the Regional Advisory Committee

## How did your interest in, or knowledge of, the developmental disability field and service system develop?:

Through having a developmental disability and being the parent of two people who have developmental disabilities.

#### What are your areas of interest in the developmental disability field and service system?:

My interest in the developmental disability field is both personal and lifelong. I'm a parent of two young adult children, both of whom have multiple developmental disabilities, and I'm also a disabled adult with a developmental disabilities myself. Because of this, I bring a multi-layered perspective: that of a parent, a caregiver, and someone with direct lived experience navigating these systems.

Over the years, I've worked through IEPs, Regional Center supports, SSI, Medi-Cal, housing issues, and college accommodations, not just once, but multiple times, in different roles. I've seen the ways the system can help individuals flourish, and I've also experienced how hard it can be to access even basic supports without constant advocacy.

My areas of interest include, Smoother transitions to adulthood, including postsecondary education, employment, and housing. Increasing self-determination and person-centered planning across all services. Reducing barriers to access, especially for multiply-disabled people and those from underrepresented communities. Strengthening supports for caregivers without placing the burden solely on families. Uplifting the voices of people with developmental disabilities as leaders in shaping policy and services.

I'm committed to helping build a system that values the full humanity, agency, and potential of every disabled person. I believe lived experience is expertise, and I hope to contribute that perspective to this board in a way that supports real, equitable change.

I also am committed to helping eliminate waste in spending and making sure our tax dollars get the most impact possible. I believe streamlining access to services and better identifying needs and services can go a long way towards that.

# Please explain why you wish to serve on the State Council on Developmental Disabilities, or on one of its Regional Advisory Committees:

I'm a parent of two young adults with multiple developmental disabilities and a developmentalally disabled adult myself. I've spent years navigating services like education, SSI, and Regional Center support. I've seen firsthand the gaps, especially during the transition to adulthood and in teen years. I've also been active in community organizing around disability and equity in Sacramento, helping families access information and advocate for systemic change.

I want to serve to help bring community voices into policy conversations, highlight real challenges disabled people and families face, and support a more person-centered, equitable, and accessible service system across the state. I also want to save the state money by making sure services are meaningful and accessible.

What strengths would you bring to the State Council and/or Regional Advisory Committee?: I'm a queer, disabled adult, parent of two neurodivergent, gender-diverse young adults, and aunt to a nonverbal niece. These relationships shape my values and fuel my work. I've spent years navigating systems and organizing in my community. I bring strong communication, advocacy, and a deep commitment to equity, inclusion, and lifting up voices often left out of decision-making.

#### MM-943

Name: REDACTED

Address: REDACTED

County of Residence: San Bernardino (Inyo, Mono, Riverside, San Bernardino)

Email: REDACTED Phone: REDACTED

Race: White Gender: Female

What intellectual & developmental disabilities do you have experience with?: Autism, Epilepsy, Deafness, legal blindness

I am a: Parent, family member, legal guardian or conservator of a person with a developmental disability, Independent Facilitator working with Inland Regional Center

# Are you currently employed by, or a member of the governing board of an organization providing services to persons with developmental disabilities?:

Yes. I am a board member of the Community Advisory Council for Corona Norco Unified School District.

#### Do you want to serve on the State Council or Regional Advisory Committee?:

I want to apply to serve on the State Council, I want to apply to serve on the Regional Advisory Committee

## How did your interest in, or knowledge of, the developmental disability field and service system develop?:

I was born to deaf parents. My mother was also legally blind. I have an child with autism. I am passionate about advocating for people with developmental disabilities.

#### What are your areas of interest in the developmental disability field and service system?:

My interests include legislation, fiscal transparency, and the Self-Determination Plan--and process improvement for SDP in particular.

## Please explain why you wish to serve on the State Council on Developmental Disabilities, or on one of its Regional Advisory Committees:

I want to make positive changes in the developmental services sector. I want to improve access to the Self-Determination Plan in particular, and in general improve transparency and accessibility of all services offered by Regional Centers.

What strengths would you bring to the State Council and/or Regional Advisory Committee?:

I have direct experience as a parent of a child who has both consumed services offered by a Regional Center and participated in the Self-Determination Plan. I have experience with and passion for special education legislation. I am passionate about advocacy. Additionally, in my previous professional roles I have gained significant project management and process improvement skills, as well as the ability to interpret and analyze legislation and regulations.

#### MM-944

Name: REDACTED

Address: REDACTED

County of Residence: Los Angeles (Los Angeles)

Email: REDACTED Phone: REDACTED

Race: Black or African American Gender: Female

What intellectual & developmental disabilities do you have experience with?: Intellectual Disability,

Autism, Cerebral Palsy

I am a: Parent, family member, legal guardian or conservator of a person with a developmental disability

Are you currently employed by, or a member of the governing board of an organization providing services to persons with developmental disabilities?:

No

#### Do you want to serve on the State Council or Regional Advisory Committee?:

I want to apply to serve on the State Council, I want to apply to serve on the Regional Advisory Committee

# How did your interest in, or knowledge of, the developmental disability field and service system develop?:

My interest in the developmental disability field began when my youngest child was diagnosed with a developmental disability. I was immediately thrust into a world I knew very little about—filled with evaluations, acronyms, specialists, and service providers. At first, it was overwhelming, and I felt defeated. But I quickly realized how important it was to become informed and proactive in order to advocate for my child. In addition, working as an Eligibility Worker II for DPSS, Los Angeles County for over 15 years, I was able to assist many families and help them navigate this difficult system. My personal knowledge allowed me to be of better service to my clients.

#### What are your areas of interest in the developmental disability field and service system?:

Systemic barriers that impact Black and Brown, marginalized communities. Equity for the underserved populations. Ensuring that the community is aware of services that are available and how to obtain those service. Adult services, early intervention, family advocacy and empowerment. I want individuals to have access to the same services regardless of their zip code.

Please explain why you wish to serve on the State Council on Developmental Disabilities, or on

#### one of its Regional Advisory Committees:

I believe that the voices of individuals with developmental disabilities and their families must be central in shaping the policies and services that impact their lives. As a parent of a young man with a developmental disability, I've experienced both the challenges and the strengths of the current service system—and I've seen how much room there is for improvement, and collaboration.

What strengths would you bring to the State Council and/or Regional Advisory Committee?: One of my greatest strength is my lived experience, and my desire to serve my community. Another strength is my commitment to equity, and my professional background of assisting people navigate generic resources. Nothing beats a person who is actually experiencing what they are advocating for in real time. I want to be to others what I needed in the past and still need.

#### MM-945

Name: REDACTED

Address: REDACTED

County of Residence: San Diego Imperial (Imperial, San Diego)

Email: REDACTED Phone: REDACTED

Race: White Gender: Female

What intellectual & developmental disabilities do you have experience with?:

I am a: Parent, family member, legal guardian or conservator of a person with a developmental disability

Are you currently employed by, or a member of the governing board of an organization providing services to persons with developmental disabilities?:

Carly's Cause - 501c3 nonprofit

#### Do you want to serve on the State Council or Regional Advisory Committee?:

I want to apply to serve on the State Council, I want to apply to serve on the Regional Advisory Committee

# How did your interest in, or knowledge of, the developmental disability field and service system develop?:

In 2009 I gave birth to Carly. She has struggled with several diagnoses during her life. Then was genetically tested and came up positive for DDX3X. I have since made it my mission to serve her and children like her.

#### What are your areas of interest in the developmental disability field and service system?:

My areas of interest are rooted in helping parents obtain resources, therapies, and information.

# Please explain why you wish to serve on the State Council on Developmental Disabilities, or on one of its Regional Advisory Committees:

I want to be a part of solutions. I would like to be with like-minded people who care about these children and their families.

#### What strengths would you bring to the State Council and/or Regional Advisory Committee?:

I believe that between my education (Bachelors and Masters in Psychology - Currently a doctoral student at USC), work experience, and being a parent of a severely disabled child that I can bring knowledge and innovative ideas to this practice space.

# CENTRAL COAST APPLICATIONS

#### MM-904

Name: REDACTED

Address: REDACTED

County of Residence: REDACTED

Email: REDACTED Phone: REDACTED

Race: Black or African American Gender: Male

What intellectual & developmental disabilities do you have experience with?: Intellectual Disability

I am a: Person with a developmental disability

Are you currently employed by, or a member of the governing board of an organization providing services to persons with developmental disabilities?:

No

Do you want to serve on the State Council or Regional Advisory Committee?:

I want to apply to serve on the State Council

How did your interest in, or knowledge of, the developmental disability field and service system develop?:

Email

What are your areas of interest in the developmental disability field and service system?:

None

Please explain why you wish to serve on the State Council on Developmental Disabilities, or on one of its Regional Advisory Committees:

I want to peer counsel

What strengths would you bring to the State Council and/or Regional Advisory Committee?: N/A

# LOS ANGELES APPLICATIONS

#### MM-921

Name: REDACTED

Address: REDACTED

County of Residence: Los Angeles (Los Angeles)

Email: REDACTED Phone: REDACTED

Race: White Gender: Female

What intellectual & developmental disabilities do you have experience with?: Intellectual Disability,

**Epilepsy** 

I am a: Person with a developmental disability

Are you currently employed by, or a member of the governing board of an organization providing services to persons with developmental disabilities?:

No

Do you want to serve on the State Council or Regional Advisory Committee?:

I want to apply to serve on the State Council, I want to apply to serve on the Regional Advisory Committee

How did your interest in, or knowledge of, the developmental disability field and service system develop?:

Text message from a friend

What are your areas of interest in the developmental disability field and service system?:

I want financial independence from my family and j want to leave home for good when my pets

Please explain why you wish to serve on the State Council on Developmental Disabilities, or on one of its Regional Advisory Committees:

I need things to change for me

What strengths would you bring to the State Council and/or Regional Advisory Committee?: I'm quite assertive.

#### MM-927

Name: REDACTED

Address: REDACTED

County of Residence: Los Angeles (Los Angeles)

Email: REDACTED Phone: REDACTED

Race: Hispanic or Latino Gender: Female

What intellectual & developmental disabilities do you have experience with?: Autism

I am a: Parent, family member, legal guardian or conservator of a person with a developmental disability

Are you currently employed by, or a member of the governing board of an organization providing services to persons with developmental disabilities?:

No

#### Do you want to serve on the State Council or Regional Advisory Committee?:

I want to apply to serve on the State Council, I want to apply to serve on the Regional Advisory Committee

How did your interest in, or knowledge of, the developmental disability field and service system develop?:

My son has autism and I am interested in advocating for him and others with developmental disabilities

What are your areas of interest in the developmental disability field and service system?:

I am primarily interested in autism and I am supportive of all developmental disabilities

Please explain why you wish to serve on the State Council on Developmental Disabilities, or on one of its Regional Advisory Committees:

I wish to serve on the State Council on Developmental Disabilities so I can make an impact for people with developmental disabilities in California. I am devoted to supporting my son, who has autism, in any way I can. One way of supporting him and others with developmental disabilities would be to strongly advocate for their needs at the state level to make sure that their needs continue to be met, especially given the current threats to support at the federal level. It is critical now, more than ever, that the support system for individuals with disabilities remain in place so they can build healthy lives.

What strengths would you bring to the State Council and/or Regional Advisory Committee?:

I bring strong leadership skills, I am an effective communicator, I enjoy collaborating with others, I operate

with authenticity and integrity, I bring strong organizational skills and am responsive to inquiries and requests, I hold myself accountable for my responsibilities, I like to be creative when coming up with solutions, and I am deeply passionate about this topic.

#### MM-944

Name: REDACTED

Address: REDACTED

County of Residence: Los Angeles (Los Angeles)

Email: REDACTED Phone: REDACTED

Race: Black or African American Gender: Female

What intellectual & developmental disabilities do you have experience with?: Intellectual Disability,

Autism, Cerebral Palsy

I am a: Parent, family member, legal guardian or conservator of a person with a developmental disability

Are you currently employed by, or a member of the governing board of an organization providing services to persons with developmental disabilities?:

No

#### Do you want to serve on the State Council or Regional Advisory Committee?:

I want to apply to serve on the State Council, I want to apply to serve on the Regional Advisory Committee

# How did your interest in, or knowledge of, the developmental disability field and service system develop?:

My interest in the developmental disability field began when my youngest child was diagnosed with a developmental disability. I was immediately thrust into a world I knew very little about—filled with evaluations, acronyms, specialists, and service providers. At first, it was overwhelming, and I felt defeated. But I quickly realized how important it was to become informed and proactive in order to advocate for my child. In addition, working as an Eligibility Worker II for DPSS, Los Angeles County for over 15 years, I was able to assist many families and help them navigate this difficult system. My personal knowledge allowed me to be of better service to my clients.

#### What are your areas of interest in the developmental disability field and service system?:

Systemic barriers that impact Black and Brown, marginalized communities. Equity for the underserved populations. Ensuring that the community is aware of services that are available and how to obtain those service. Adult services, early intervention, family advocacy and empowerment. I want individuals to have access to the same services regardless of their zip code.

Please explain why you wish to serve on the State Council on Developmental Disabilities, or on

#### one of its Regional Advisory Committees:

I believe that the voices of individuals with developmental disabilities and their families must be central in shaping the policies and services that impact their lives. As a parent of a young man with a developmental disability, I've experienced both the challenges and the strengths of the current service system—and I've seen how much room there is for improvement, and collaboration.

What strengths would you bring to the State Council and/or Regional Advisory Committee?: One of my greatest strength is my lived experience, and my desire to serve my community. Another strength is my commitment to equity, and my professional background of assisting people navigate generic resources. Nothing beats a person who is actually experiencing what they are advocating for in

real time. I want to be to others what I needed in the past and still need.

# NORTH BAY APPLICATIONS

#### **MM-909**

Name: REDACTED

Address: REDACTED

County of Residence: North Bay (Napa, Solano, Sonoma)

Email: REDACTED Phone: REDACTED

Race: White Gender: Female

What intellectual & developmental disabilities do you have experience with?: Intellectual Disability, Autism, Epilepsy, Cerebral Palsy, Rare Congenital Diseases

Lam a: Nurse

Are you currently employed by, or a member of the governing board of an organization providing services to persons with developmental disabilities?:

yes NBRC

#### Do you want to serve on the State Council or Regional Advisory Committee?:

I want to apply to serve on the State Council, I want to apply to serve on the Regional Advisory Committee

# How did your interest in, or knowledge of, the developmental disability field and service system develop?:

My interest developed through my work as a nurse consultant, where I support individuals with developmental disabilities. I'm passionate and committed to improve the system to enhance the lives of individuals with IDD

#### What are your areas of interest in the developmental disability field and service system?:

My primary areas of interest in the developmental disability field are improving healthcare access, care coordination, and care management. I am passionate about bridging the gap between healthcare and community services to ensure individuals with complex medical and behavior needs receive timely, high quality care.

## Please explain why you wish to serve on the State Council on Developmental Disabilities, or on one of its Regional Advisory Committees:

I wish to serve on the SCDD because I am deeply committed to advocating for high-quality, person-centered services for individuals with developmental disabilities. I want to contribute to policy improvements that strengthen care coordination between hospitals, regional centers and supported living

programs.

What strengths would you bring to the State Council and/or Regional Advisory Committee?:

As a Senior Nurse Consultant at NBRC, I have extensive experience in managing complex medical cases and coordinating hospital discharges. I bring a unique combination of healthcare expertise, leadership and advocacy to the State Council or Regional Advisory Committee.

# NORTH COAST APPLICATIONS

#### **MM-908**

Name: REDACTED

Address: REDACTED

County of Residence: North Coast (Del Norte, Humboldt, Lake, Mendocino)

Email: REDACTED Phone: REDACTED

Race: White Gender: Male

What intellectual & developmental disabilities do you have experience with?: Cerebral Palsy

I am a: Person with a developmental disability

Are you currently employed by, or a member of the governing board of an organization providing services to persons with developmental disabilities?:

Humboldt community Access & Resource Center. I am a program Director Managing the Respite Program and Employment Services program.

Do you want to serve on the State Council or Regional Advisory Committee?:

I want to apply to serve on the State Council

How did your interest in, or knowledge of, the developmental disability field and service system develop?:

I am a person who receives services and have also worked in the service system for almost 20 years.

What are your areas of interest in the developmental disability field and service system?:

I currently work in direct service but have worked for the Regional Center and have my BA in Social Work. I have an interest in state Advocacy and Legislative Policy.

Please explain why you wish to serve on the State Council on Developmental Disabilities, or on one of its Regional Advisory Committees:

I have a passion for Advocacy work. I also believe in building strong networks and community for those we serve.

What strengths would you bring to the State Council and/or Regional Advisory Committee?:

I have a known of the service system I love legislative advocacy work, and i think I represent people we serve well.

#### MM-931

Name: REDACTED

Address: REDACTED

County of Residence: North Coast (Del Norte, Humboldt, Lake, Mendocino)

Email: REDACTED Phone: REDACTED

Race: White, American Indian or Alaska Native, Two or more races Gender: Female

What intellectual & developmental disabilities do you have experience with?: TBI, PTSD, Trauma

I am a: Person with a developmental disability, Parent, family member, legal guardian or conservator of a person with a developmental disability

Are you currently employed by, or a member of the governing board of an organization providing services to persons with developmental disabilities?:

Do you want to serve on the State Council or Regional Advisory Committee?:

I want to apply to serve on the State Council, I want to apply to serve on the Regional Advisory Committee

How did your interest in, or knowledge of, the developmental disability field and service system develop?:

Lived Experience

What are your areas of interest in the developmental disability field and service system?: Homelessness and Mental Health

Please explain why you wish to serve on the State Council on Developmental Disabilities, or on one of its Regional Advisory Committees:

To participate in community activities directed at enriching the lives of disabled people

What strengths would you bring to the State Council and/or Regional Advisory Committee?: Lived experience, former BIPOC and DEIJ committee work, and education.

# NORTH STATE APPLICATIONS

#### MM-905

Name: REDACTED

Address: REDACTED

County of Residence: North State (Butte, Glenn, Lassen, Modoc, Plumas, Shasta, Siskiyou, Tehama,

Trinity)

Email: REDACTED Phone: REDACTED

Race: White Gender:

What intellectual & developmental disabilities do you have experience with?: Cerebral Palsy

I am a: Person with a developmental disability

Are you currently employed by, or a member of the governing board of an organization providing services to persons with developmental disabilities?:

no

Do you want to serve on the State Council or Regional Advisory Committee?:

I want to apply to serve on the State Council

How did your interest in, or knowledge of, the developmental disability field and service system develop?:

lots

What are your areas of interest in the developmental disability field and service system?: lots

Please explain why you wish to serve on the State Council on Developmental Disabilities, or on one of its Regional Advisory Committees:

replacing rosie ryan

What strengths would you bring to the State Council and/or Regional Advisory Committee?: everything

#### MM-915

Name: REDACTED

Address: REDACTED

County of Residence: North State (Butte, Glenn, Lassen, Modoc, Plumas, Shasta, Siskiyou, Tehama,

Trinity)

Email: REDACTED Phone: REDACTED

Race: Asian Gender: Male

What intellectual & developmental disabilities do you have experience with?: Intellectual Disability, Autism, Epilepsy, Cerebral Palsy

I am a: Parent, family member, legal guardian or conservator of a person with a developmental disability, Vendor

Are you currently employed by, or a member of the governing board of an organization providing services to persons with developmental disabilities?:

Impact Solution (Vendor FNRC)

Do you want to serve on the State Council or Regional Advisory Committee?:

I want to apply to serve on the State Council

# How did your interest in, or knowledge of, the developmental disability field and service system develop?:

My interest in the developmental disability field and service system developed through both personal and professional experiences. I previously worked at Far Northern Regional Center, where I gained firsthand knowledge of the support systems and services available for individuals with developmental disabilities. This experience deepened my understanding of the challenges they face and the importance of person-centered planning.

Additionally, my passion for this field grew even stronger when I started my own agency, dedicated to helping individuals with disabilities find meaningful opportunities and access the resources they need to thrive. Through this endeavor, I've worked closely with clients, families, and service providers, which has given me valuable insight into the complexities of the system and the need for continuous advocacy and improvement.

On a personal level, having a family member with a disability has given me an even greater appreciation for the impact that quality services and strong support networks can have on an individual's life. This

personal connection has fueled my commitment to making a difference in the lives of those I serve, ensuring that they receive the care, opportunities, and respect they deserve.

What are your areas of interest in the developmental disability field and service system?: My primary areas of interest in the developmental disability field and service system are employment services and Independent Living Services (ILS).

In employment services, I am passionate about helping individuals with disabilities find meaningful and sustainable jobs that align with their strengths and interests. I believe that everyone deserves the opportunity to contribute to their community and gain independence through employment. My experience has shown me the importance of customized job placement, job coaching, and employer education to create inclusive workplaces. I am committed to advocating for employment opportunities that promote dignity, skill development, and long-term success for individuals with disabilities.

In Independent Living Services (ILS), I focus on empowering individuals to develop the skills they need to live as independently as possible. This includes support with daily living tasks, financial management, self-advocacy, and community integration. I believe that fostering independence not only improves quality of life but also builds confidence and self-sufficiency. Through personalized support and training, I aim to help individuals with disabilities achieve their personal goals and lead fulfilling lives.

By working at the intersection of employment services and ILS, I strive to create a holistic support system that enables individuals with disabilities to gain both job stability and life skills, ensuring they have the resources and confidence to thrive in their communities.

# Please explain why you wish to serve on the State Council on Developmental Disabilities, or on one of its Regional Advisory Committees:

I wish to serve on the State Council on Developmental Disabilities (SCDD) because I am deeply committed to advocating for and improving the lives of individuals with developmental disabilities. My experience working at Far Northern Regional Center, starting my own agency to support individuals with disabilities, and having a family member with a disability has given me firsthand insight into the challenges and opportunities within the developmental disability service system.

Through my work in employment services and Independent Living Services (ILS), I have seen how crucial it is to provide person-centered support that empowers individuals to achieve independence, self-sufficiency, and meaningful community inclusion. I believe that serving on the SCDD or a Regional Advisory Committee would allow me to contribute my knowledge and expertise to shape policies, improve service delivery, and advocate for resources that enhance the lives of people with developmental disabilities.

I am particularly passionate about ensuring that individuals have access to employment opportunities that respect their strengths and interests, as well as independent living supports that help them navigate daily life successfully. By serving on the council or committee, I hope to bring a practical, solutions-oriented perspective to policy discussions, bridging the gap between service providers, families, and individuals with disabilities.

Ultimately, my goal is to be a voice for individuals with developmental disabilities and their families,

helping to create a more inclusive, supportive, and effective system that promotes independence, dignity, and self-determination for all.

What strengths would you bring to the State Council and/or Regional Advisory Committee?: I would bring several key strengths to the State Council on Developmental Disabilities (SCDD), including direct experience, advocacy skills, problem-solving abilities, and a deep commitment to empowering individuals with disabilities.

Professional and Personal Experience – Having worked at Far Northern Regional Center and started my own agency supporting individuals with disabilities, I have firsthand experience navigating the developmental disability service system. Additionally, having a family member with a disability gives me a personal perspective on the challenges faced by individuals and their families. This combination allows me to approach issues with both practical and compassionate insight.

Expertise in Employment Services & Independent Living – My work in employment services and Independent Living Services (ILS) has given me a strong understanding of the barriers individuals with disabilities face in securing jobs and achieving independence. I can contribute practical solutions to improve job placement, job coaching, life skills training, and community integration efforts.

Advocacy and Policy Knowledge – I am passionate about self-advocacy and systemic change. I understand the importance of policies that promote inclusion, access to services, and equitable opportunities. My ability to engage with stakeholders, service providers, employers, and legislators would help ensure that the council's initiatives reflect the real needs of individuals with disabilities.

Strong Communication & Collaboration – I have experience working with diverse teams, service providers, and government agencies, ensuring that individuals with disabilities receive the best support possible. I am skilled at listening to different perspectives, fostering collaboration, and working toward effective solutions.

Commitment to Positive Change – My ultimate goal is to enhance the lives of individuals with developmental disabilities by advocating for better policies, improved services, and greater community inclusion. I am dedicated to promoting independence, dignity, and self-determination for all individuals, and I believe my skills and experience align well with the mission of the State Council or Regional Advisory Committee.

By bringing a combination of direct service experience, advocacy, collaboration, and problem-solving skills, I am confident that I can make a meaningful contribution to the council or committee's work.

#### **MM-916**

Name: REDACTED

Address: REDACTED

County of Residence: North State (Butte, Glenn, Lassen, Modoc, Plumas, Shasta, Siskiyou, Tehama,

Trinity)

Email: REDACTED Phone: REDACTED

Race: White Gender: Male

What intellectual & developmental disabilities do you have experience with?: Autism, Epilepsy, Obsessive

Compulsive Disorder

I am a: Person with a developmental disability

Are you currently employed by, or a member of the governing board of an organization providing services to persons with developmental disabilities?:

No

#### Do you want to serve on the State Council or Regional Advisory Committee?:

I want to apply to serve on the State Council, I want to apply to serve on the Regional Advisory Committee

# How did your interest in, or knowledge of, the developmental disability field and service system develop?:

By living it. When I was in school and had a meltdown, the teacher put my books in a garbage bad and gave it to me, which made it impossible to learn, and that was in 5th grade. I was ahead of my peers in math and reading until about 3rd grade, then the personality problems with teachers and other students began to kick in, it was a struggle to be in the classroom and the worst time to fall behind academically because that's when you learn things in math class like PEMDAS. Also, and this became more of a struggle going into my teenage years and continues to this day, I struggle to socialize; I don't have friends my age or a girlfriend, the isolation became even worse during the Covid-19 pandemic. I had to become a neurodiverse activist. Also, I've previously represented Shasta County's Special Education Local Plan Area (SELPA) at Leg Day, lobbying legislators.

#### What are your areas of interest in the developmental disability field and service system?:

Advocacy, and this is what I advocate for: greater socialization opportunities, especially for young adults, by building on the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and expanding California's Lanterman Act; ending what I term the "technoplundering of the world" i.e. overuse of smartphones and the internet for

better times socializing (I recommend the book "The Anxious Generation: How the Great Rewiring of Childhood Is Causing an Epidemic of Mental Illness" by Jonathon Haidt; expansion of Diversity Equity and Inclusion (DEI) work programs for the disabled and neurodiverse; keeping public schools public, and advocating fully funding the Individuals with Disabilities in Education Act (IDEA) and Individualized Education Plans (IEPs); supporting expanding CalCare into a universal healthcare system with a strong emphasis on mental health coverage and increasing Medicaid funds for programs like In-Home Support Services (IHSS); greater studies into the recently researched links between pollution and autism, as a matter of environmental policy; expansion of low-income housing accessible for people with developmental and physical disabilities; recognition of neurodiversity not as a problem with "behavior" but as a different way the brain works, and as such opposition to Applied Behavioral Analysis (ABA); opposition to discrimination against people with developmental disabilities; ending forced incarceration of people with mental health issues i.e. "Care Courts" for being discriminatory against people with developmental disabilities.

# Please explain why you wish to serve on the State Council on Developmental Disabilities, or on one of its Regional Advisory Committees:

I'd like to meet many new people and form relationships; I'd like to be in an official capacity representing and advocating for people with developmental disabilities, being more involved in advocacy at the state and local level; and I'd like to call attention to the issue of isolation (particularly a problem for the neurodiverse) having a bad radicalizing effect in some cases, and the preventative difference that a helpful intervention that services and/or programs brings to people with developmental disabilities.

What strengths would you bring to the State Council and/or Regional Advisory Committee?: Judgement, both as a student and now young adult whose lived a life with a developmental disability, to understand the problems, outside the box thinking to solve problems, and experience because I've served on the Shasta Union Elementary School District Board of Trustees, I made headlines as one of the youngest (I was elected at 18) and only autistic trustees in the country, and was featued in the California School Board Association (CSBA) magazine.

#### MM-917

Name: REDACTED

Address: REDACTED

County of Residence: North State (Butte, Glenn, Lassen, Modoc, Plumas, Shasta, Siskiyou, Tehama,

Trinity)

Email: REDACTED Phone: REDACTED

Race: White, Hispanic or Latino Gender: Male

What intellectual & developmental disabilities do you have experience with?: Intellectual Disability, Autism

I am a: Parent, family member, legal guardian or conservator of a person with a developmental disability, Representative of the general public

Are you currently employed by, or a member of the governing board of an organization providing services to persons with developmental disabilities?:

No

Do you want to serve on the State Council or Regional Advisory Committee?:

I want to apply to serve on the State Council

# How did your interest in, or knowledge of, the developmental disability field and service system develop?:

After attaining my BFA in Communication Design, I began working as professional staff for Chico State's Recreational Sports program. I learned about Chico State's Neurodiversity and Disability Task Force where I started to attend events like their annual Symposium and pre-symposium events such as their Think Tank where community members all over the nation came together to discuss issues within their departments, shared resources, and created a safe space to voice ideas. My mother works for the Arc of Butte County and when I lived with her she taught me how to care for children on the spectrum and those who also lived with physical disabilities. My little brother has a learning disability and I have cousins who are on the Autism spectrum. I am privileged to understand their experiences and to be someone who can advocate for them.

#### What are your areas of interest in the developmental disability field and service system?:

Trauma healing, substance abuse prevention, generational trauma management, and creating safe spaces/environments that encourage those with mental/physical disabilities to feel like they belong.

Please explain why you wish to serve on the State Council on Developmental Disabilities, or on

#### one of its Regional Advisory Committees:

Having attended the Neurodiversity Symposium encouraged me to apply my skills as a leader, graphic designer, and program manager to increase inclusivity and awareness in our program. I would like to continue to do this at a larger scale.

What strengths would you bring to the State Council and/or Regional Advisory Committee?: I am a bilingual speaker (fluent in verbal and written Spanish), I advocate for the youth, and I am passionate about inclusive design and programming. I'm an avid listener and a compassionate advocate which allows me to understand the complexity of individuals that most can't seem to comprehend.

#### MM-918

Name: REDACTED

Address: REDACTED

County of Residence: North State (Butte, Glenn, Lassen, Modoc, Plumas, Shasta, Siskiyou, Tehama,

Trinity)

Email: REDACTED Phone: REDACTED

Race: White Gender: Male

What intellectual & developmental disabilities do you have experience with?: Cerebral Palsy

I am a: Person with a developmental disability

Are you currently employed by, or a member of the governing board of an organization providing services to persons with developmental disabilities?:

Here's The Deal

Do you want to serve on the State Council or Regional Advisory Committee?:

I want to apply to serve on the State Council

How did your interest in, or knowledge of, the developmental disability field and service system develop?:

I have always advocated for myself, as my parents taught me to have a good self-esteem in spite of my severe disability. I had the good fortune to grow up in a very supportive family and wanted nothing more than to be like my siblings. Years ago, I was going to law school in Sacramento and I injured my foot and had to take a medical leave, so I decided to move back to Chico, and I had bills to pay so I got a job teaching ILS to individuals with developmental disabilities and found my passion and started Here's The Deal 26 years ago.

What are your areas of interest in the developmental disability field and service system?:

Advocacy, Legislation and Service Delivery

Please explain why you wish to serve on the State Council on Developmental Disabilities, or on one of its Regional Advisory Committees:

In these incredibly challenging times, it is important to have a realistic approach to providing supports for individuals within our system and we have to look at possible different ways to help people within our system maximize their full potentials.

What strengths would you bring to the State Council and/or Regional Advisory Committee?:

I have a good understanding of our system and am always looking to improve the lives of myself and others and I am looking forward to the opportunity to gain and share my knowledge with others.

#### **MM-930**

Name: REDACTED

Address: REDACTED

County of Residence: North State (Butte, Glenn, Lassen, Modoc, Plumas, Shasta, Siskiyou, Tehama,

Trinity)

Email: REDACTED Phone: REDACTED

Race: Two or more races Gender: Female

What intellectual & developmental disabilities do you have experience with?: Autism, ADHD

I am a: Parent, family member, legal guardian or conservator of a person with a developmental disability, Disability Advisory Committee member, Chair of Neurodiversity Subcommittee, Program Manager for Neurospicy Brainwaves Neurodivergent Affinity Group

Are you currently employed by, or a member of the governing board of an organization providing services to persons with developmental disabilities?:

No

Do you want to serve on the State Council or Regional Advisory Committee?:

I want to apply to serve on the State Council

# How did your interest in, or knowledge of, the developmental disability field and service system develop?:

When struggling in the rural north state to find care for my severely autistic son and turning to the SCDD for help obtaining assistive technology, I saw how overwhelming it can be for parents. The SCDD helped a lot.I also received poor treatment at my employer for having a disabled child. I developed a lot of compassion for parents and people of all ages with disabilities from these experiences. I continue to find ways to give back and learn more about the plight of those with developmental disabilities.

#### What are your areas of interest in the developmental disability field and service system?:

I have an interest in recruitment of specialists, rural health care issues effecting the north state, coordinating trainings, support groups, and other assistance for caregivers and individuals with disabilities.

Please explain why you wish to serve on the State Council on Developmental Disabilities, or on one of its Regional Advisory Committees:

As a parent of an autistic child and an employee of the Department of Managed Health Care involved in

disability advocacy work, I have an interest in coordinating with state stakeholders who are passionate about improving the lives of those with disabilities.

What strengths would you bring to the State Council and/or Regional Advisory Committee?: I have a background in journalism and writing which has aided me in my advocacy work. I am also focused on achieving goals in a group environment, while focusing on including all voices and not dominating the conversation. My goal is to make a difference, not to obtain credit for any group accomplishments. This mindset has aided me in my endeavors.

#### **MM-939**

Name: REDACTED

Address: REDACTED

County of Residence: North State (Butte, Glenn, Lassen, Modoc, Plumas, Shasta, Siskiyou, Tehama,

Trinity)

Email: REDACTED Phone: REDACTED

Race: White Gender: Female

What intellectual & developmental disabilities do you have experience with?: Intellectual Disability,

Epilepsy, Cerebral Palsy

I am a: Parent, family member, legal guardian or conservator of a person with a developmental disability

Are you currently employed by, or a member of the governing board of an organization providing services to persons with developmental disabilities?:

no

#### Do you want to serve on the State Council or Regional Advisory Committee?:

I want to apply to serve on the State Council, I want to apply to serve on the Regional Advisory Committee

# How did your interest in, or knowledge of, the developmental disability field and service system develop?:

it started in high school when I volunteered at the special needs class of Loma vista and developed into a passion when I had my youngest son born with developmental delay, epilepsy and CP. I then worked for our local county special education department with children with special needs in a pre school setting.

#### What are your areas of interest in the developmental disability field and service system?:

Advocacy for students and families and making sure families have all the information they need to make the best decision they can for their child.

# Please explain why you wish to serve on the State Council on Developmental Disabilities, or on one of its Regional Advisory Committees:

I get so many families in our community asking questions from medical to education because the information available is not as known to new parents especially since it is a scary time for parents and I want to make this journey the best for them I can.

#### What strengths would you bring to the State Council and/or Regional Advisory Committee?:

I fight for what is right and try to get all the information on the topic I can by research and reaching out to community members or others further out who can help. I also bring an understanding of what they may be experiencing and help navigate some trials they may be going through.

## SACRAMENTO APPLICATIONS

#### MM-926

Name: REDACTED

Address: REDACTED

County of Residence: Sacramento (Alpine, Colusa, El Dorado, Nevada, Placer, Sacramento, Sierra,

Sutter, Yolo, Yuba)

Email: REDACTED Phone: REDACTED

Race: White Gender: Female

What intellectual & developmental disabilities do you have experience with?: Intellectual Disability, 22q11

I am a: Person with a developmental disability

Are you currently employed by, or a member of the governing board of an organization providing services to persons with developmental disabilities?:

yes

Do you want to serve on the State Council or Regional Advisory Committee?:

I want to apply to serve on the State Council

How did your interest in, or knowledge of, the developmental disability field and service system develop?:

helping others

What are your areas of interest in the developmental disability field and service system?:

social media networking self-advocate

Please explain why you wish to serve on the State Council on Developmental Disabilities, or on one of its Regional Advisory Committees:

I want to give back to the community

What strengths would you bring to the State Council and/or Regional Advisory Committee?:

people skills

#### MM-935

Name: REDACTED

Address: REDACTED

County of Residence: Sacramento (Alpine, Colusa, El Dorado, Nevada, Placer, Sacramento, Sierra,

Sutter, Yolo, Yuba)

Email: REDACTED Phone: REDACTED

Race: White Gender: Female

What intellectual & developmental disabilities do you have experience with?: Intellectual Disability,

Physical

I am a: Parent, family member, legal guardian or conservator of a person with a developmental disability,

My own disabilities

Are you currently employed by, or a member of the governing board of an organization providing services to persons with developmental disabilities?:

No

Do you want to serve on the State Council or Regional Advisory Committee?:

I want to apply to serve on the State Council

How did your interest in, or knowledge of, the developmental disability field and service system develop?:

I have always had to push for what my son needed to him achieve his goals in life.

What are your areas of interest in the developmental disability field and service system?:

More money to help the disabled to be able to achieve a career or comfortable way of living able to eat and their medication and the family not have to worry about which one is more important.

Please explain why you wish to serve on the State Council on Developmental Disabilities, or on one of its Regional Advisory Committees:

CA to bring my life experience living with raising, working with and dealing with my own mental health issues of all different types and different levels in life. I have been here first hand and know how much the community and families need the states support to be able to help us with as a productive life as possible.

What strengths would you bring to the State Council and/or Regional Advisory Committee?:

CA I can bring my first hand knowledge of working with special needs children and adults in many different areas. I worked in the classrooms, drove school buses, coached Special Olympics, mentored, and the most rewarding of all I raised my children that has been diagnosed with autism, and bi polar. I am no means an expert but, I have the passion for helping others and understanding what the disabled and lower income communities need to survive.

#### MM-941

Name: REDACTED

Address: REDACTED

County of Residence: Sacramento (Alpine, Colusa, El Dorado, Nevada, Placer, Sacramento, Sierra,

Sutter, Yolo, Yuba)

Email: REDACTED Phone: REDACTED

Race: White Gender: non binary

What intellectual & developmental disabilities do you have experience with?: Autism, Cerebral Palsy, ADHD, Sensory processing disorder

I am a: Person with a developmental disability, Parent, family member, legal guardian or conservator of a person with a developmental disability

Are you currently employed by, or a member of the governing board of an organization providing services to persons with developmental disabilities?:

IHSS

#### Do you want to serve on the State Council or Regional Advisory Committee?:

I want to apply to serve on the State Council, I want to apply to serve on the Regional Advisory Committee

## How did your interest in, or knowledge of, the developmental disability field and service system develop?:

Through having a developmental disability and being the parent of two people who have developmental disabilities.

#### What are your areas of interest in the developmental disability field and service system?:

My interest in the developmental disability field is both personal and lifelong. I'm a parent of two young adult children, both of whom have multiple developmental disabilities, and I'm also a disabled adult with a developmental disabilities myself. Because of this, I bring a multi-layered perspective: that of a parent, a caregiver, and someone with direct lived experience navigating these systems.

Over the years, I've worked through IEPs, Regional Center supports, SSI, Medi-Cal, housing issues, and college accommodations, not just once, but multiple times, in different roles. I've seen the ways the system can help individuals flourish, and I've also experienced how hard it can be to access even basic supports without constant advocacy.

My areas of interest include, Smoother transitions to adulthood, including postsecondary education, employment, and housing. Increasing self-determination and person-centered planning across all services. Reducing barriers to access, especially for multiply-disabled people and those from underrepresented communities. Strengthening supports for caregivers without placing the burden solely on families. Uplifting the voices of people with developmental disabilities as leaders in shaping policy and services.

I'm committed to helping build a system that values the full humanity, agency, and potential of every disabled person. I believe lived experience is expertise, and I hope to contribute that perspective to this board in a way that supports real, equitable change.

I also am committed to helping eliminate waste in spending and making sure our tax dollars get the most impact possible. I believe streamlining access to services and better identifying needs and services can go a long way towards that.

## Please explain why you wish to serve on the State Council on Developmental Disabilities, or on one of its Regional Advisory Committees:

I'm a parent of two young adults with multiple developmental disabilities and a developmentalally disabled adult myself. I've spent years navigating services like education, SSI, and Regional Center support. I've seen firsthand the gaps, especially during the transition to adulthood and in teen years. I've also been active in community organizing around disability and equity in Sacramento, helping families access information and advocate for systemic change.

I want to serve to help bring community voices into policy conversations, highlight real challenges disabled people and families face, and support a more person-centered, equitable, and accessible service system across the state. I also want to save the state money by making sure services are meaningful and accessible.

What strengths would you bring to the State Council and/or Regional Advisory Committee?: I'm a queer, disabled adult, parent of two neurodivergent, gender-diverse young adults, and aunt to a nonverbal niece. These relationships shape my values and fuel my work. I've spent years navigating systems and organizing in my community. I bring strong communication, advocacy, and a deep commitment to equity, inclusion, and lifting up voices often left out of decision-making.

## SAN BERNARDINO APPLICATIONS

#### MM-940

Name: REDACTED

Address: REDACTED

County of Residence: San Bernardino (Inyo, Mono, Riverside, San Bernardino)

Email: REDACTED Phone: REDACTED

Race: American Indian or Alaska Native Gender: Male

What intellectual & developmental disabilities do you have experience with?: Intellectual Disability

I am a: Person with a developmental disability

Are you currently employed by, or a member of the governing board of an organization providing services to persons with developmental disabilities?:

Jay bay

Do you want to serve on the State Council or Regional Advisory Committee?:

I want to apply to serve on the State Council, I want to apply to serve on the Regional Advisory Committee

How did your interest in, or knowledge of, the developmental disability field and service system develop?:

Struggles working through the system

What are your areas of interest in the developmental disability field and service system?:

Ensuring programs that meet the needs of individuals with developmental disabilities

Please explain why you wish to serve on the State Council on Developmental Disabilities, or on one of its Regional Advisory Committees:

Because I feel like the voices of development disabled youth and young adults aren't heard

What strengths would you bring to the State Council and/or Regional Advisory Committee?:

Problem solving and wide knowledge of many subjects

#### MM-943

Name: REDACTED

Address: REDACTED

County of Residence: San Bernardino (Inyo, Mono, Riverside, San Bernardino)

Email: REDACTED Phone: REDACTED

Race: White Gender: Female

What intellectual & developmental disabilities do you have experience with?: Autism, Epilepsy, Deafness, legal blindness

I am a: Parent, family member, legal guardian or conservator of a person with a developmental disability, Independent Facilitator working with Inland Regional Center

## Are you currently employed by, or a member of the governing board of an organization providing services to persons with developmental disabilities?:

Yes. I am a board member of the Community Advisory Council for Corona Norco Unified School District.

#### Do you want to serve on the State Council or Regional Advisory Committee?:

I want to apply to serve on the State Council, I want to apply to serve on the Regional Advisory Committee

## How did your interest in, or knowledge of, the developmental disability field and service system develop?:

I was born to deaf parents. My mother was also legally blind. I have an child with autism. I am passionate about advocating for people with developmental disabilities.

#### What are your areas of interest in the developmental disability field and service system?:

My interests include legislation, fiscal transparency, and the Self-Determination Plan--and process improvement for SDP in particular.

## Please explain why you wish to serve on the State Council on Developmental Disabilities, or on one of its Regional Advisory Committees:

I want to make positive changes in the developmental services sector. I want to improve access to the Self-Determination Plan in particular, and in general improve transparency and accessibility of all services offered by Regional Centers.

What strengths would you bring to the State Council and/or Regional Advisory Committee?:

I have direct experience as a parent of a child who has both consumed services offered by a Regional Center and participated in the Self-Determination Plan. I have experience with and passion for special education legislation. I am passionate about advocacy. Additionally, in my previous professional roles I have gained significant project management and process improvement skills, as well as the ability to interpret and analyze legislation and regulations.

# SAN DIEGO APPLICATIONS

#### MM-924

Name: REDACTED

Address: REDACTED

County of Residence: San Diego Imperial (Imperial, San Diego)

Email: REDACTED Phone: REDACTED

Race: Black or African American Gender: Female

What intellectual & developmental disabilities do you have experience with?: Intellectual Disability,

Autism, Epilepsy

I am a: Parent, family member, legal guardian or conservator of a person with a developmental disability

Are you currently employed by, or a member of the governing board of an organization providing services to persons with developmental disabilities?:

No

#### Do you want to serve on the State Council or Regional Advisory Committee?:

I want to apply to serve on the State Council, I want to apply to serve on the Regional Advisory Committee

## How did your interest in, or knowledge of, the developmental disability field and service system develop?:

I have two children that are autistic; my younger child has an intellectual disability. Before I had children, I have volunteered at schools advocating for student rights, mentoring, supporting children's emotional needs and also being a voice and listening ear for the parents.

#### What are your areas of interest in the developmental disability field and service system?:

I have experience leading diverse groups, building consensus, and ensuring that all voices are heard. This helps in fostering inclusive and productive discussions.

## Please explain why you wish to serve on the State Council on Developmental Disabilities, or on one of its Regional Advisory Committees:

I have experience leading diverse groups, building consensus, and ensuring that all voices are heard. This helps in fostering inclusive and productive discussions. I am deeply committed to promoting equity, particularly in addressing systemic barriers faced by underserved communities. This lens informs how I approach both policy and program evaluation

#### What strengths would you bring to the State Council and/or Regional Advisory Committee?:

I bring a strong combination of collaboration, strategic thinking, and a deep commitment to equity. I have experience working with diverse communities and stakeholders, and I excel at building partnerships that drive results. My ability to listen actively, synthesize information, and advocate for inclusive, data-driven solutions would support the Council's mission. I also bring a regional perspective, grounded in hands-on experience with local challenges and opportunities, which allows me to contribute practical insights and bridge the gap between policy and implementation.

#### MM-945

Name: REDACTED

Address: REDACTED

County of Residence: San Diego Imperial (Imperial, San Diego)

Email: REDACTED Phone: REDACTED

Race: White Gender: Female

What intellectual & developmental disabilities do you have experience with?:

I am a: Parent, family member, legal guardian or conservator of a person with a developmental disability

Are you currently employed by, or a member of the governing board of an organization providing services to persons with developmental disabilities?:

Carly's Cause - 501c3 nonprofit

#### Do you want to serve on the State Council or Regional Advisory Committee?:

I want to apply to serve on the State Council, I want to apply to serve on the Regional Advisory Committee

## How did your interest in, or knowledge of, the developmental disability field and service system develop?:

In 2009 I gave birth to Carly. She has struggled with several diagnoses during her life. Then was genetically tested and came up positive for DDX3X. I have since made it my mission to serve her and children like her.

#### What are your areas of interest in the developmental disability field and service system?:

My areas of interest are rooted in helping parents obtain resources, therapies, and information.

## Please explain why you wish to serve on the State Council on Developmental Disabilities, or on one of its Regional Advisory Committees:

I want to be a part of solutions. I would like to be with like-minded people who care about these children and their families.

#### What strengths would you bring to the State Council and/or Regional Advisory Committee?:

I believe that between my education (Bachelors and Masters in Psychology - Currently a doctoral student at USC), work experience, and being a parent of a severely disabled child that I can bring knowledge and innovative ideas to this practice space.